VOL.
7

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WITH CONCEPTUAL ASSISTANCE BY

YOSHINORI SUGIMOTO

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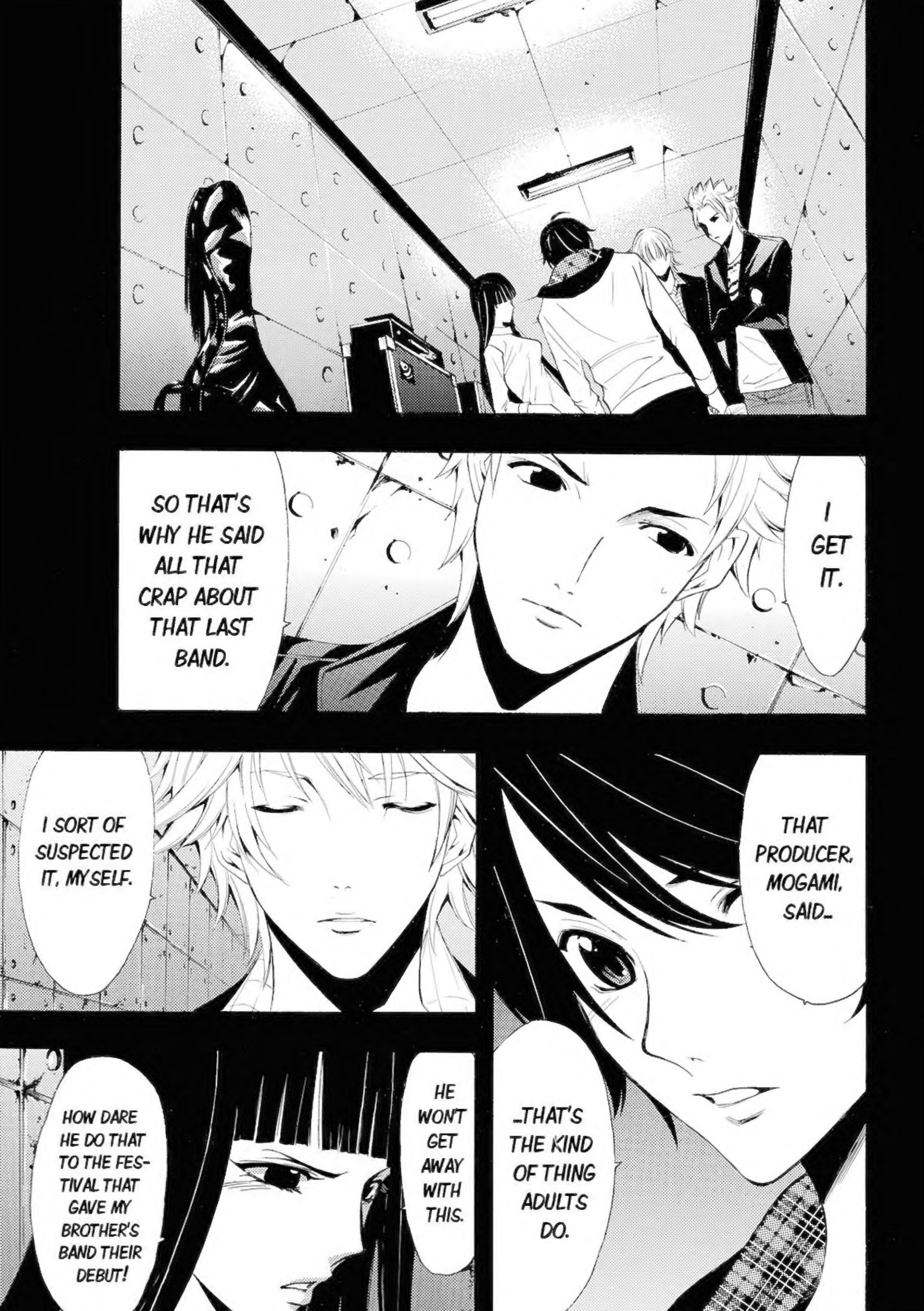
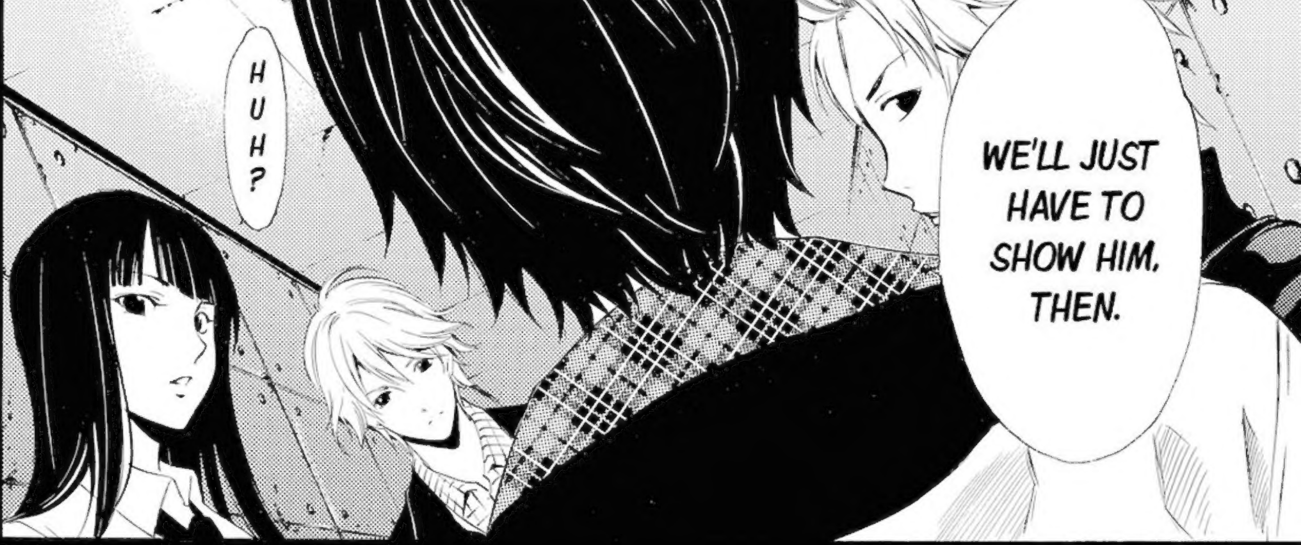

I GET IT.
SO THAT'S WHY HE SAID ALL THAT CRAP ABOUT THAT LAST BAND.
THAT PRODUCER, MOGAMI, SAID...
...THAT'S THE KIND OF THING ADULTS DO.
I SORT OF SUSPECTED IT, MYSELF.
HE WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS.
HOW DARE HE DO THAT TO THE FESTIVAL THAT GAVE MY BROTHER'S BAND THEIR DEBUT!


WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SHOW HIM, THEN.
HUH?

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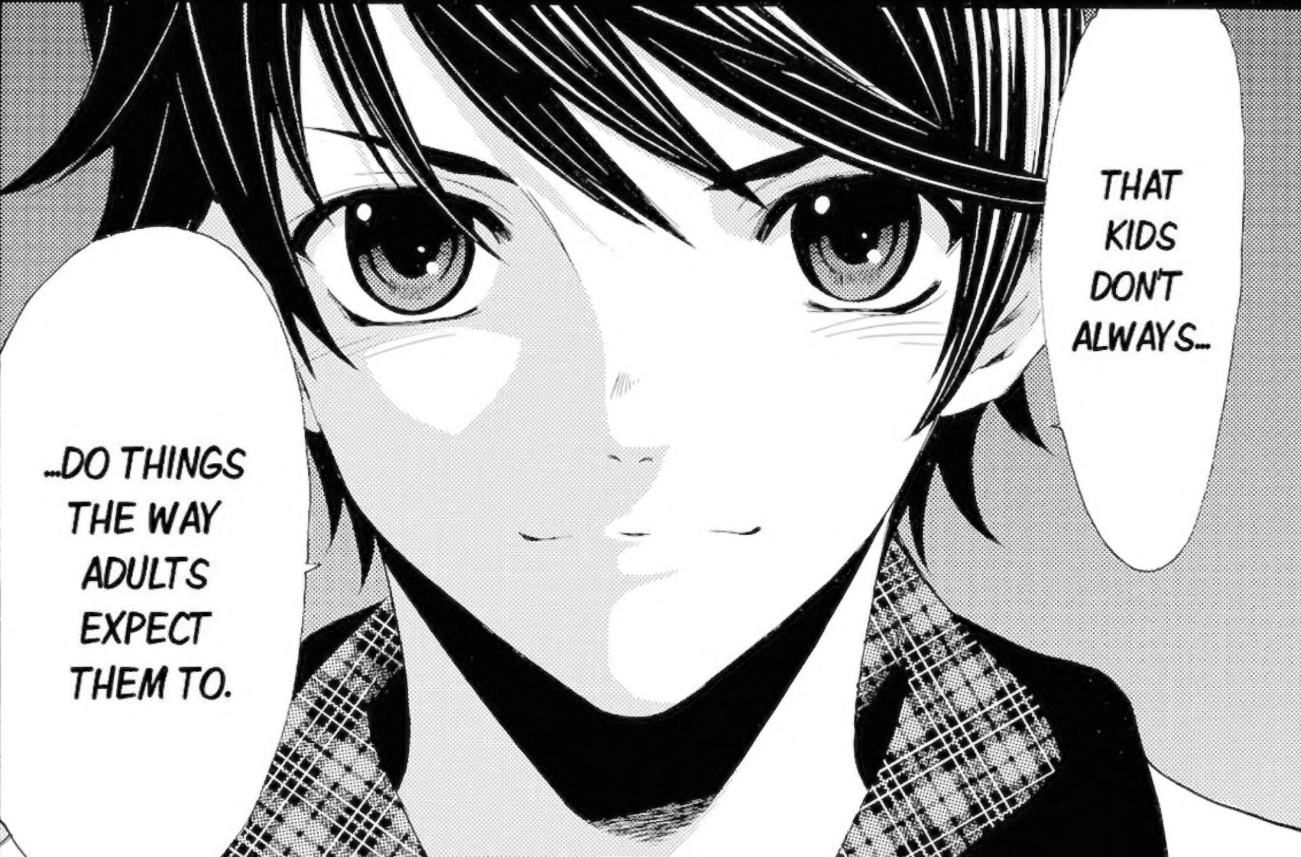
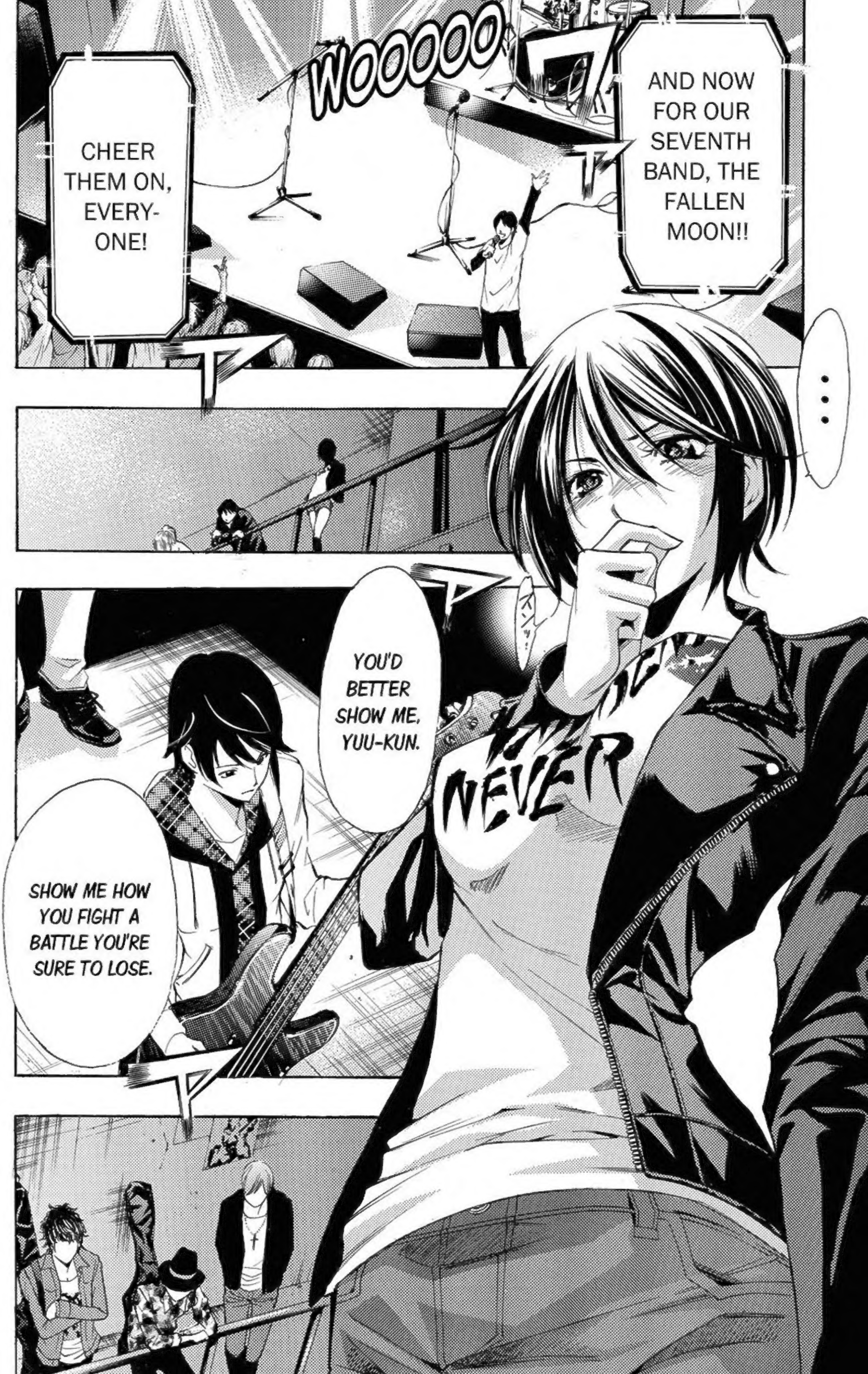
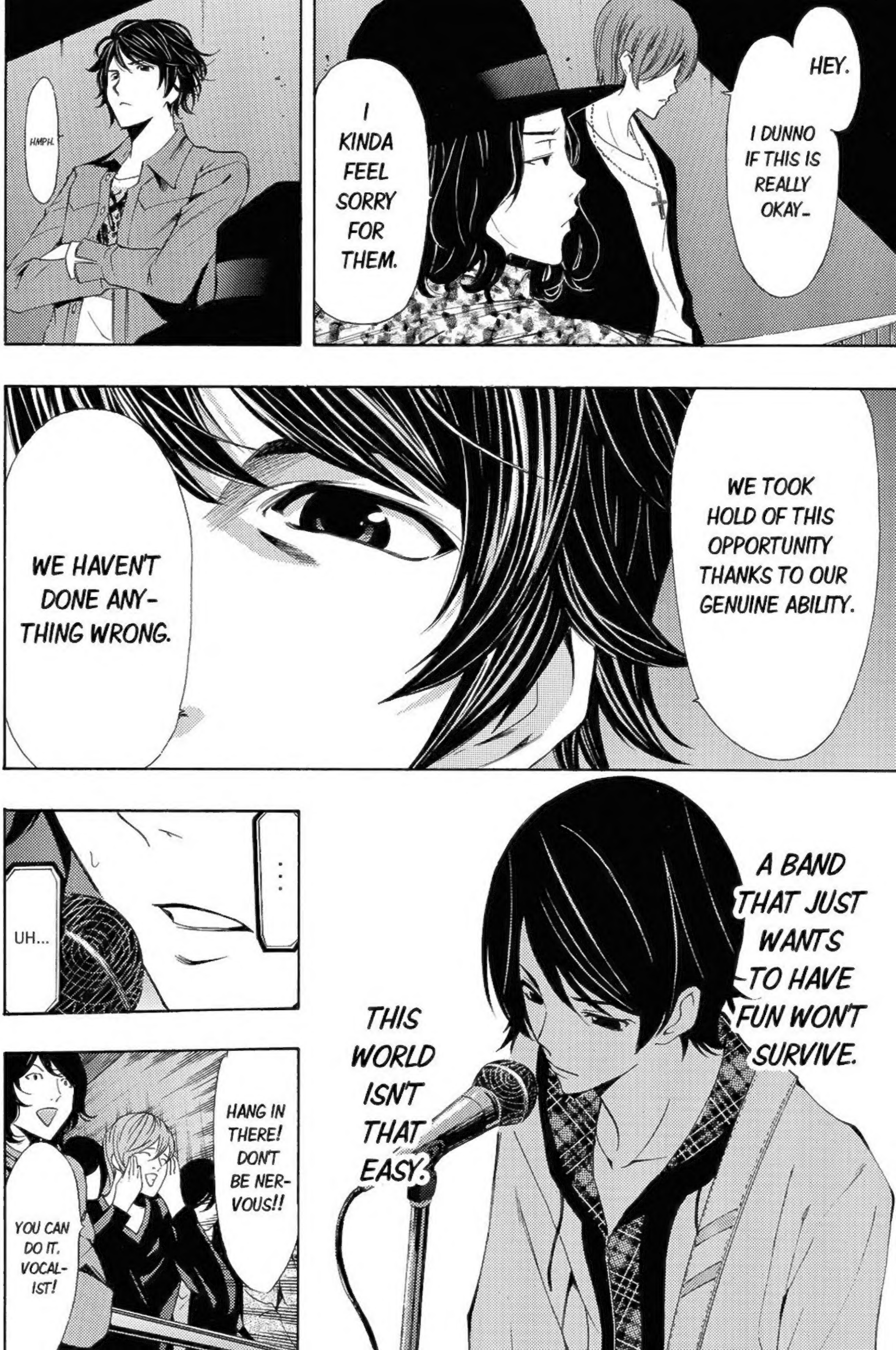
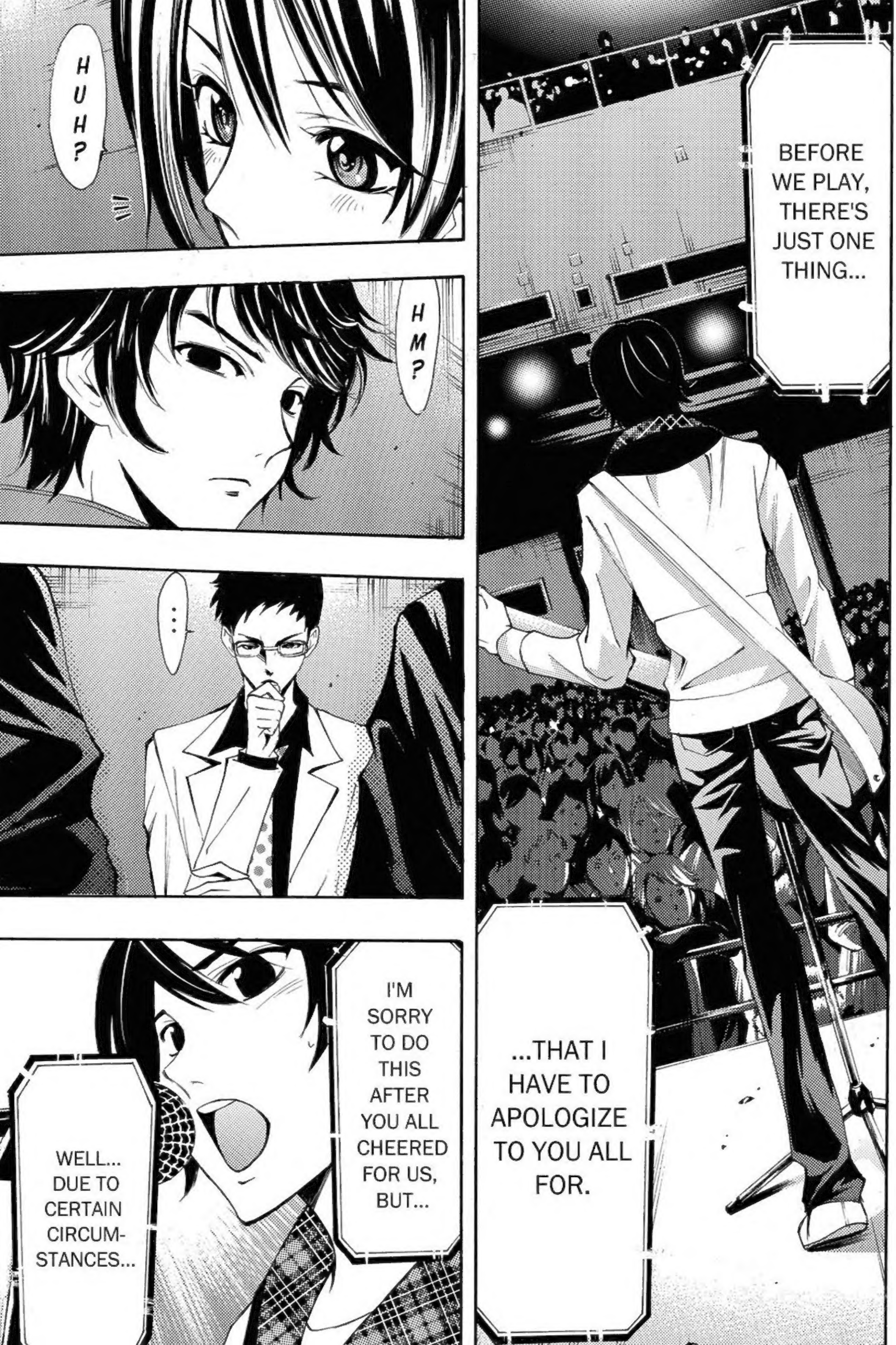
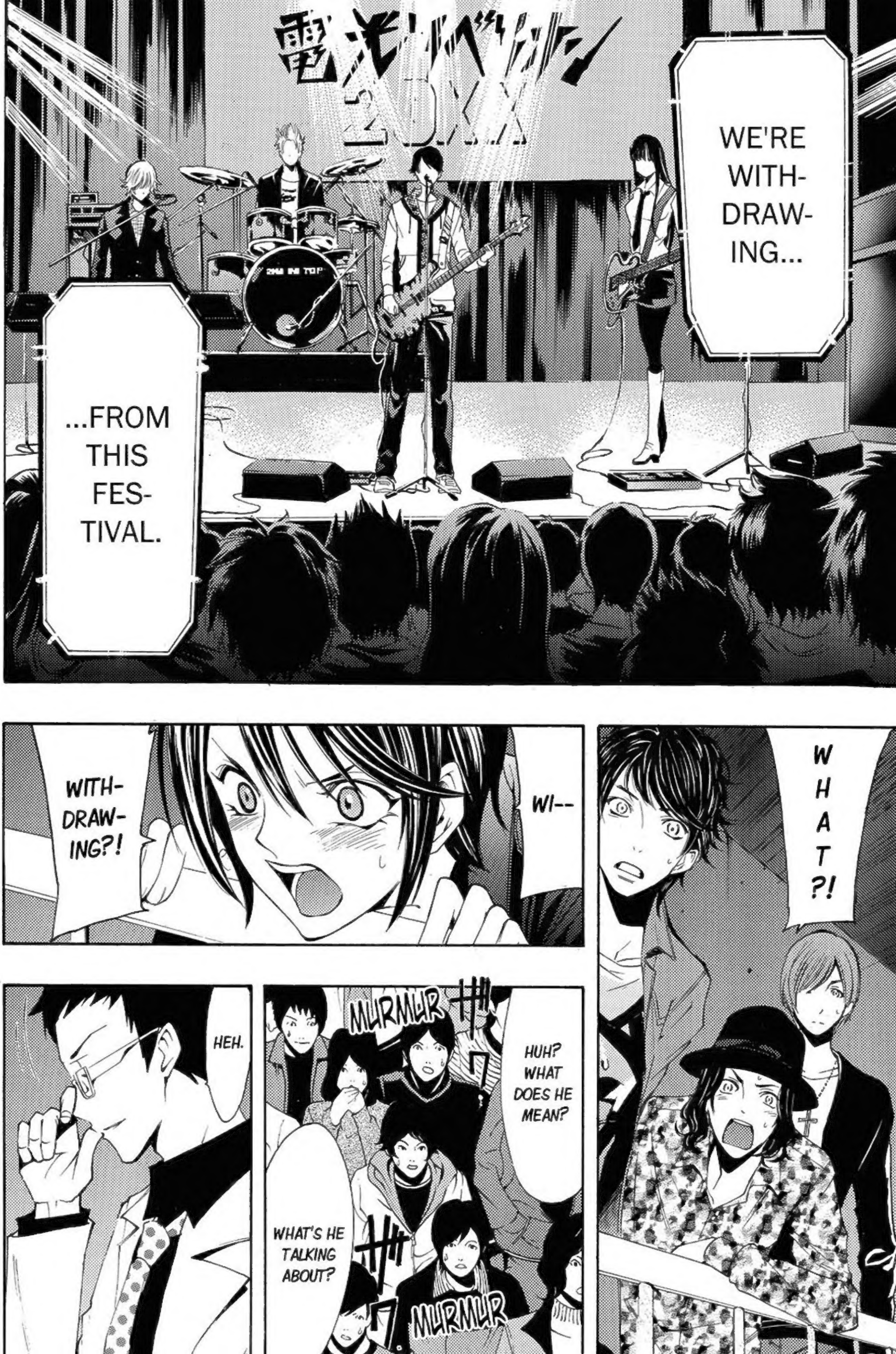
# 56 JUST ONE THING.

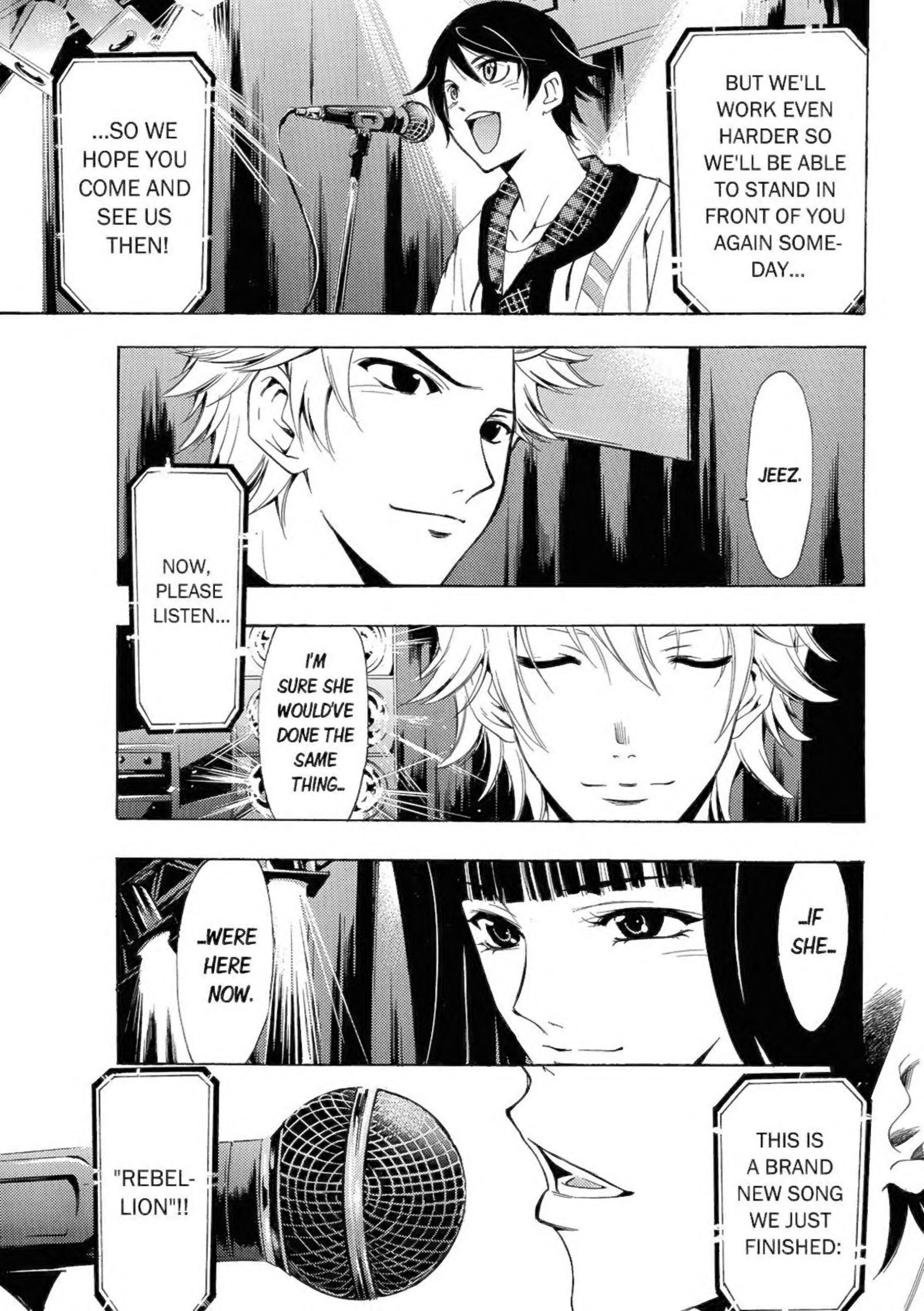

THAT KIDS DON'T ALWAYS...
...DO THINGS THE WAY ADULTS EXPECT THEM TO.

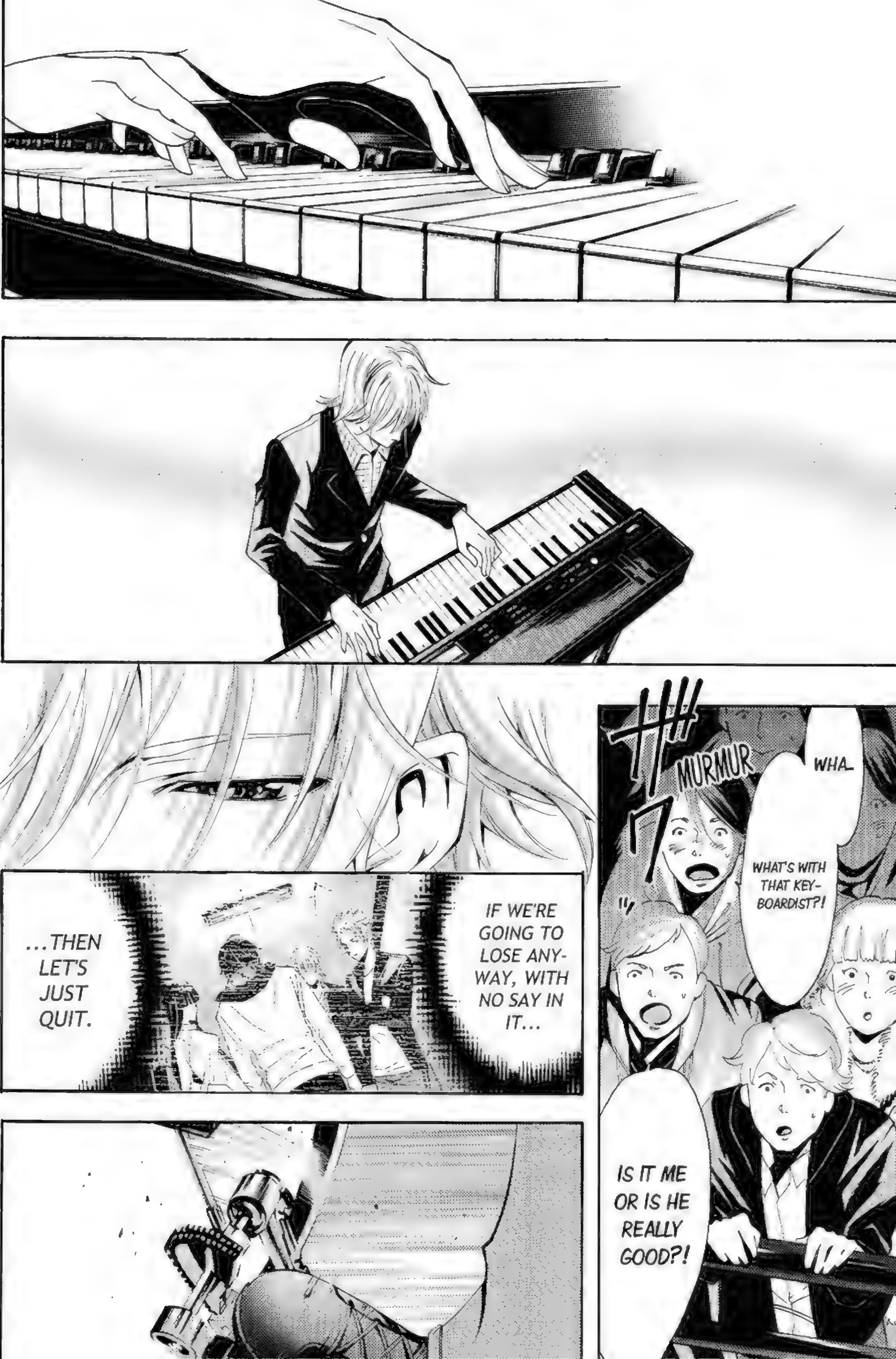

AND NOW FOR OUR SEVENTH BAND, THE FALLEN MOON!!
WOOOOO
CHEER THEM ON, EVERY-ONE!
...
YOU'D BETTER SHOW ME, YUU-KUN.
SHOW ME HOW YOU FIGHT A BATTLE YOU'RE SURE TO LOSE.
NEVER

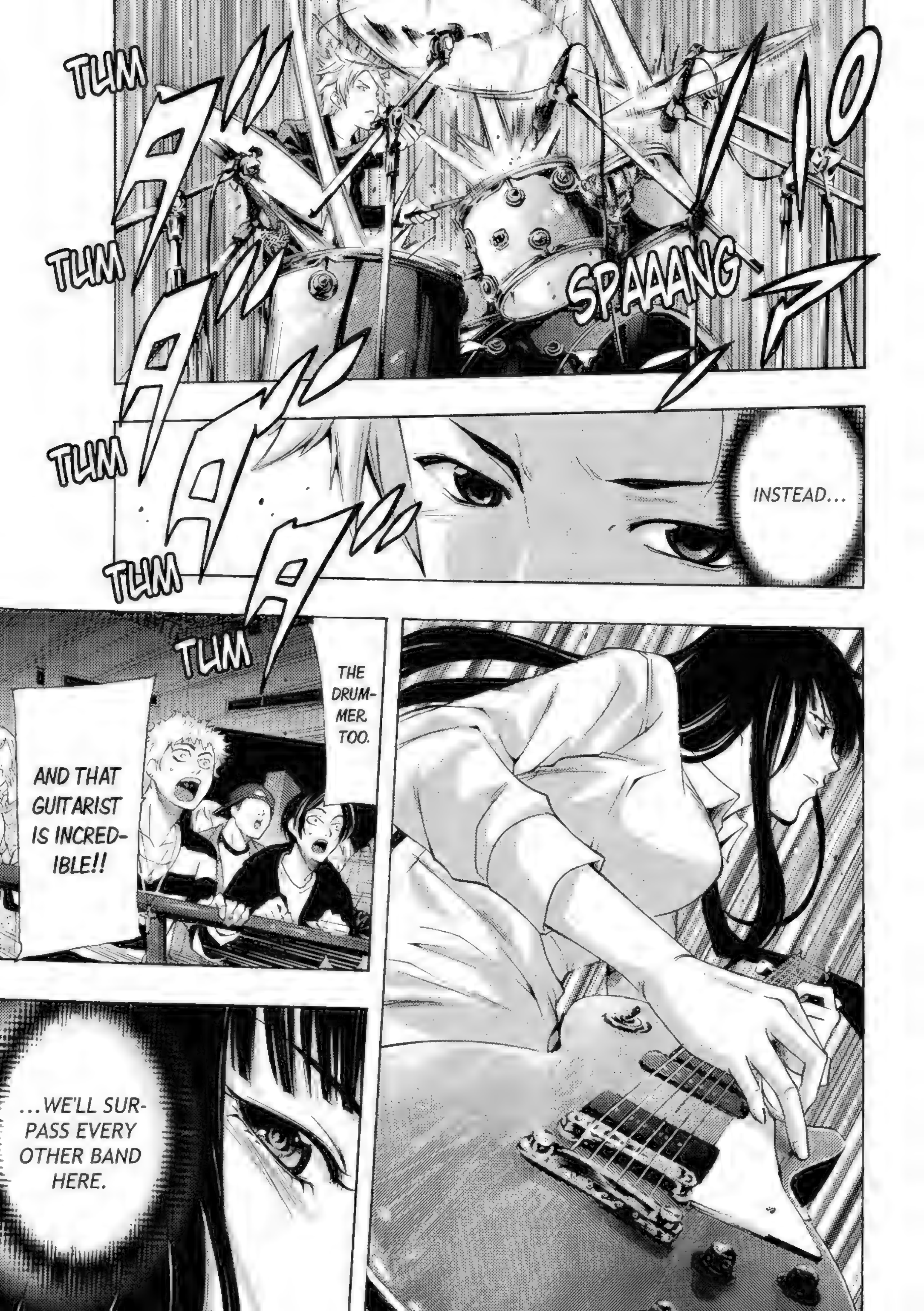

HEY.
I DUNNO IF THIS IS REALLY OKAY..
I KINDA FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.
HMPH.
WE TOOK HOLD OF THIS OPPORTUNITY THANKS TO OUR GENUINE ABILITY.
WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
A BAND THAT JUST WANTS TO HAVE FUN WON'T SURVIVE.
THIS WORLD ISN'T THAT EASY.
...
UH...
HANG IN THERE! DON'T BE NERVOUS!!
YOU CAN DO IT, VOCALIST!

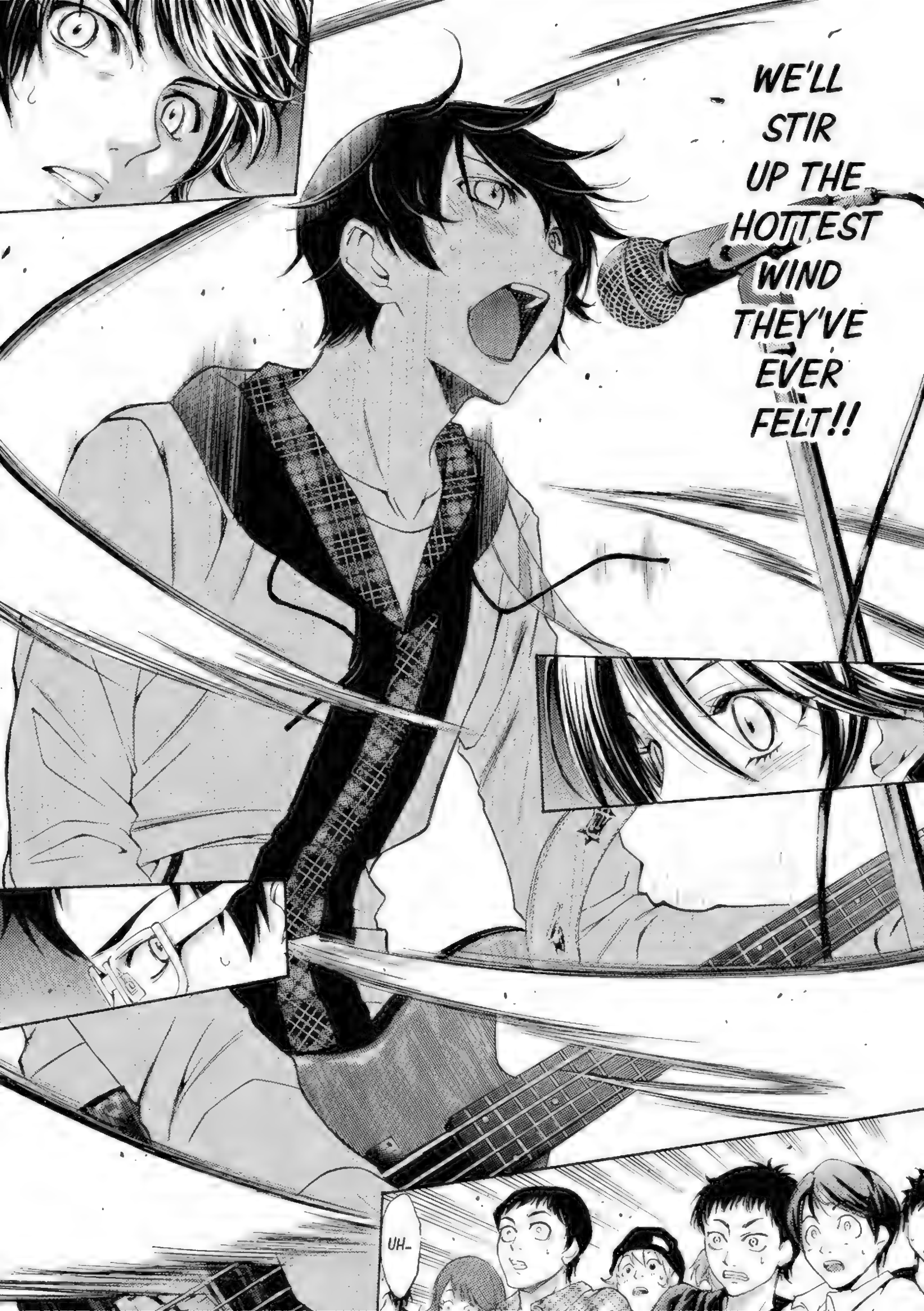

BEFORE WE PLAY, THERE'S JUST ONE THING...
...THAT I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU ALL FOR.
HUH?
HM?
...
I'M SORRY TO DO THIS AFTER YOU ALL CHEERED FOR US, BUT...
WELL... DUE TO CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES...

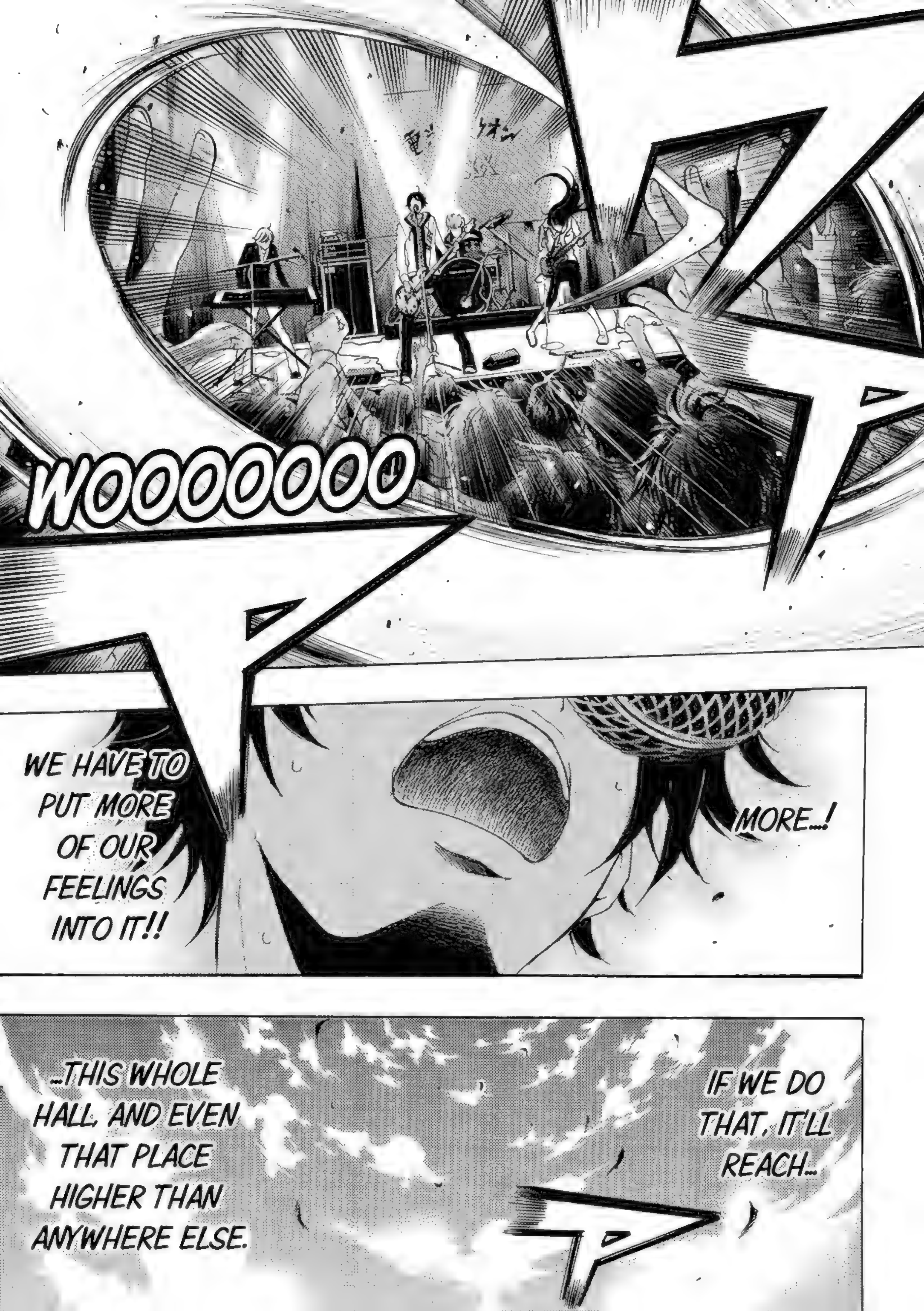

電光 20XX
WE'RE WITHDRAWING...
...FROM THIS FESTIVAL.
WHAT?!
WI--
WITHDRAWING?!
MURMUR
HUH? WHAT DOES HE MEAN?
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
MURMUR
HEH.

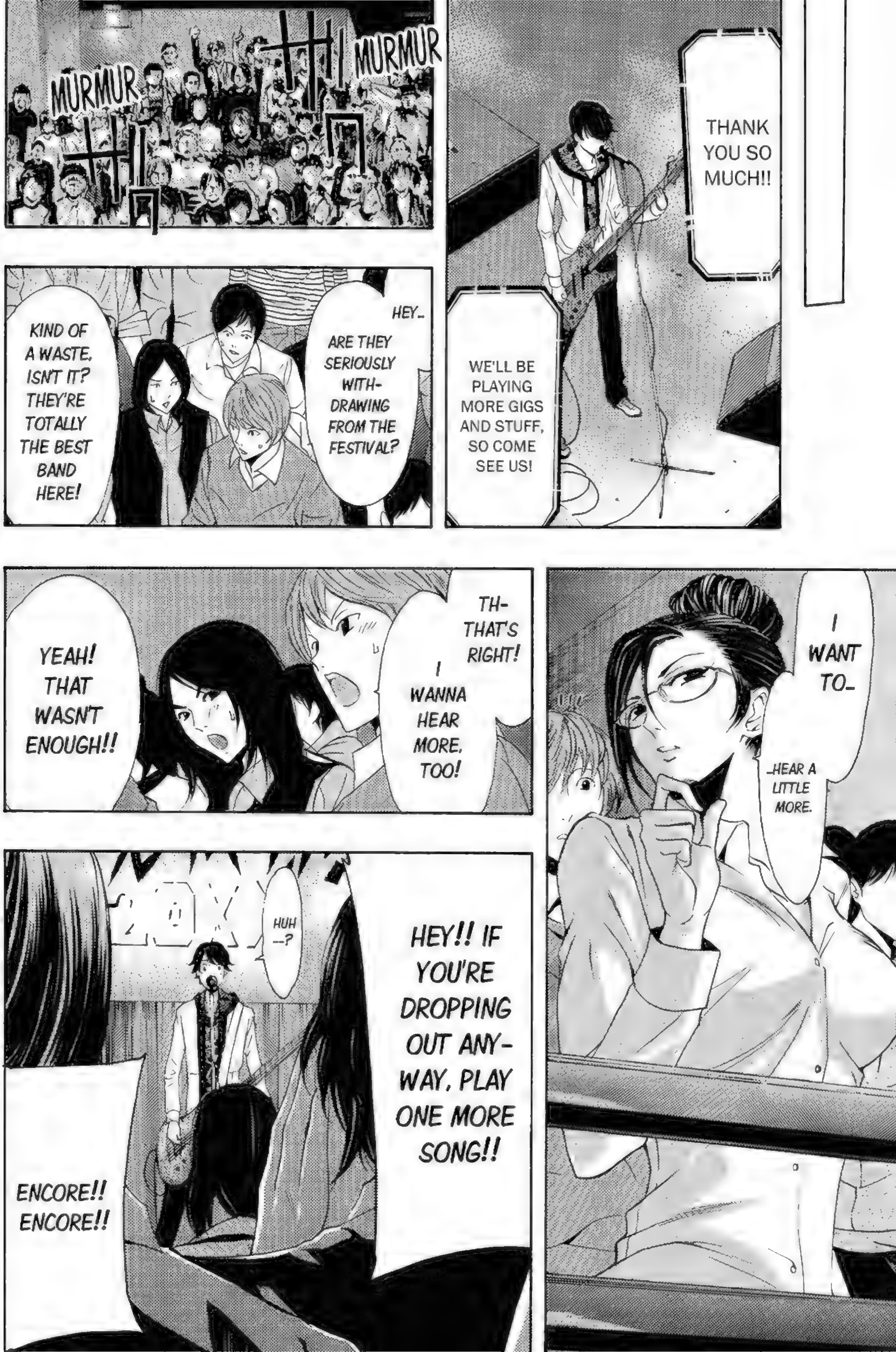

BUT WE'LL WORK EVEN HARDER SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO STAND IN FRONT OF YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY...
...SO WE HOPE YOU COME AND SEE US THEN!
JEEZ.
NOW, PLEASE LISTEN...
I'M SURE SHE WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME THING..
..IF SHE..
..WERE HERE NOW.
THIS IS A BRAND NEW SONG WE JUST FINISHED:
"REBELLION"!!

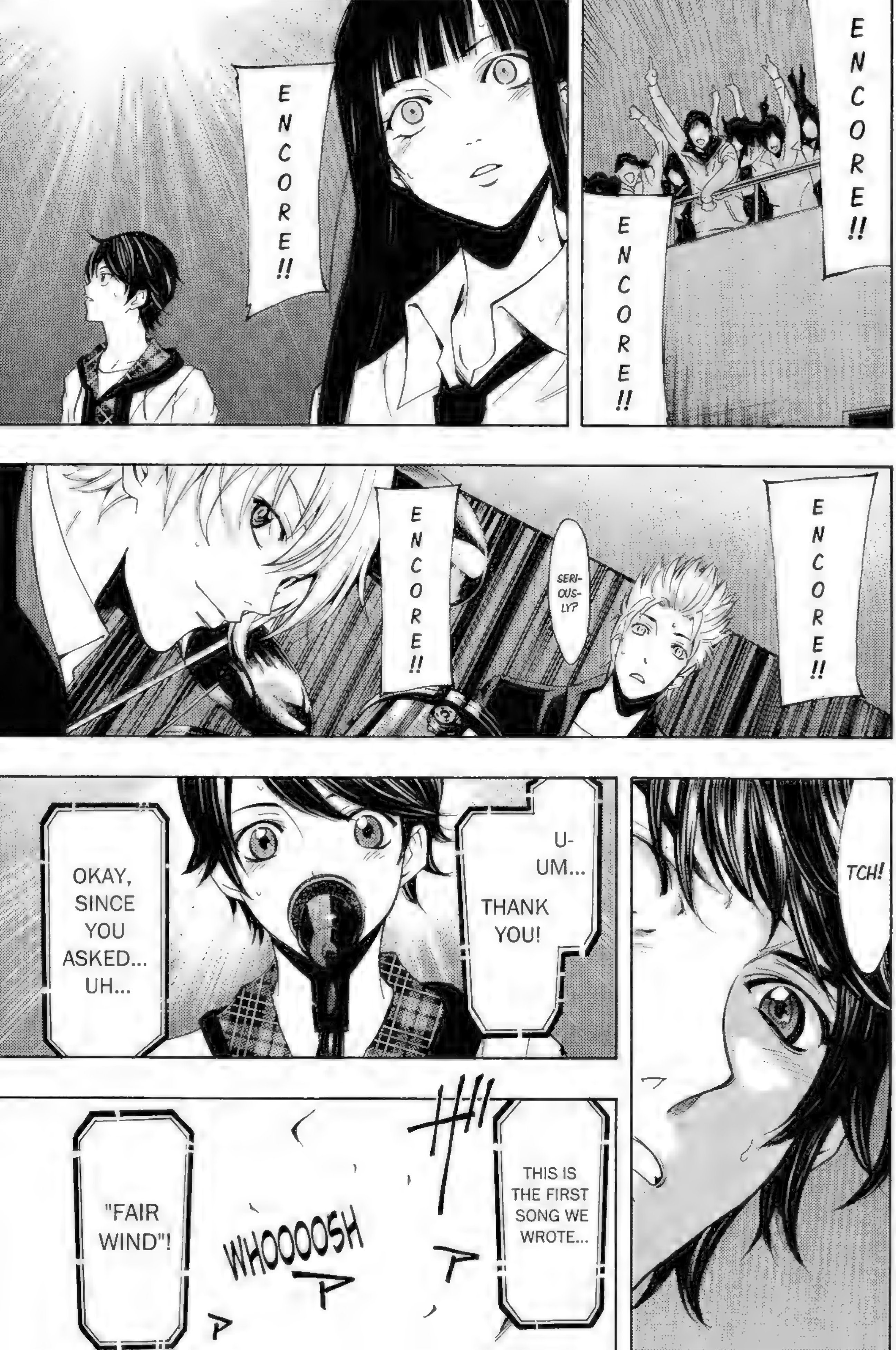

MURMUR
WHA...
WHAT'S WITH THAT KEYBOARDIST?!
IS IT ME OR IS HE REALLY GOOD?!
IF WE'RE GOING TO LOSE ANYWAY, WITH NO SAY IN IT...
...THEN LET'S JUST QUIT.

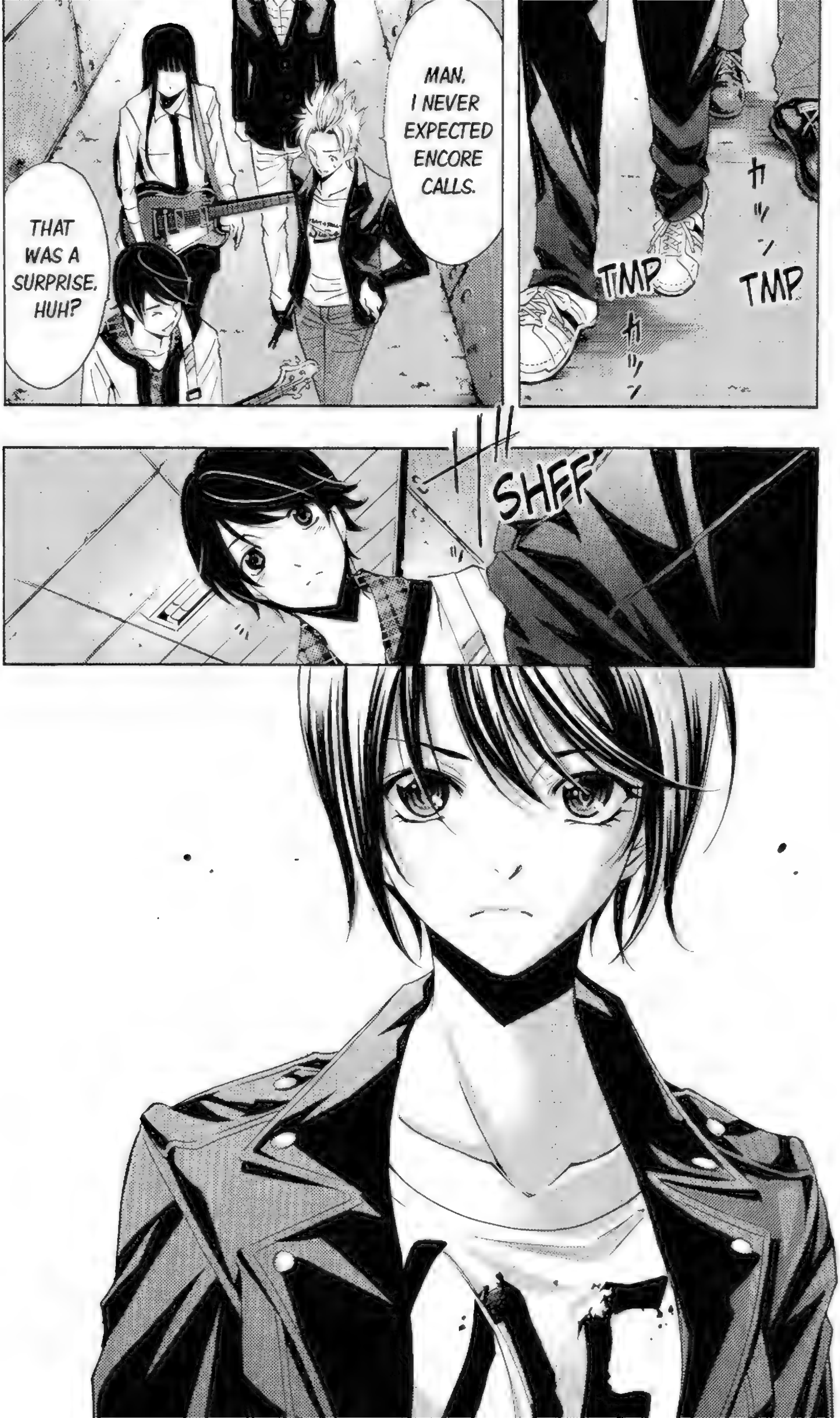

SPAAANG
TLIM
TLIM
TLIM
TLIM
TLIM
INSTEAD...
THE DRUMMER. TOO.
AND THAT GUITARIST IS INCREDIBLE!!
...WE'LL SURPASS EVERY OTHER BAND HERE.

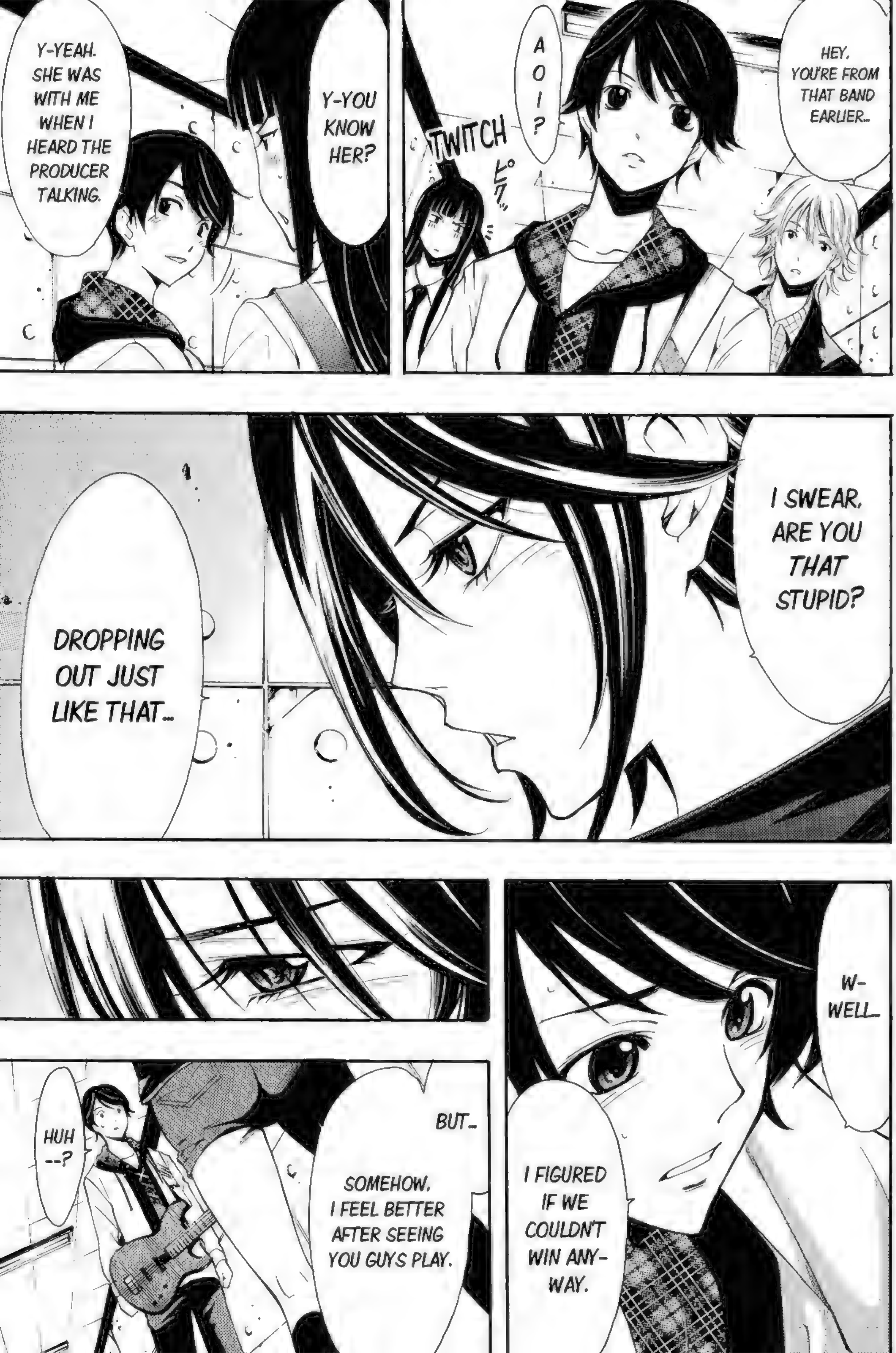

WE'LL STIR UP THE HOTTEST WIND THEY'VE EVER FELT!!
UH-

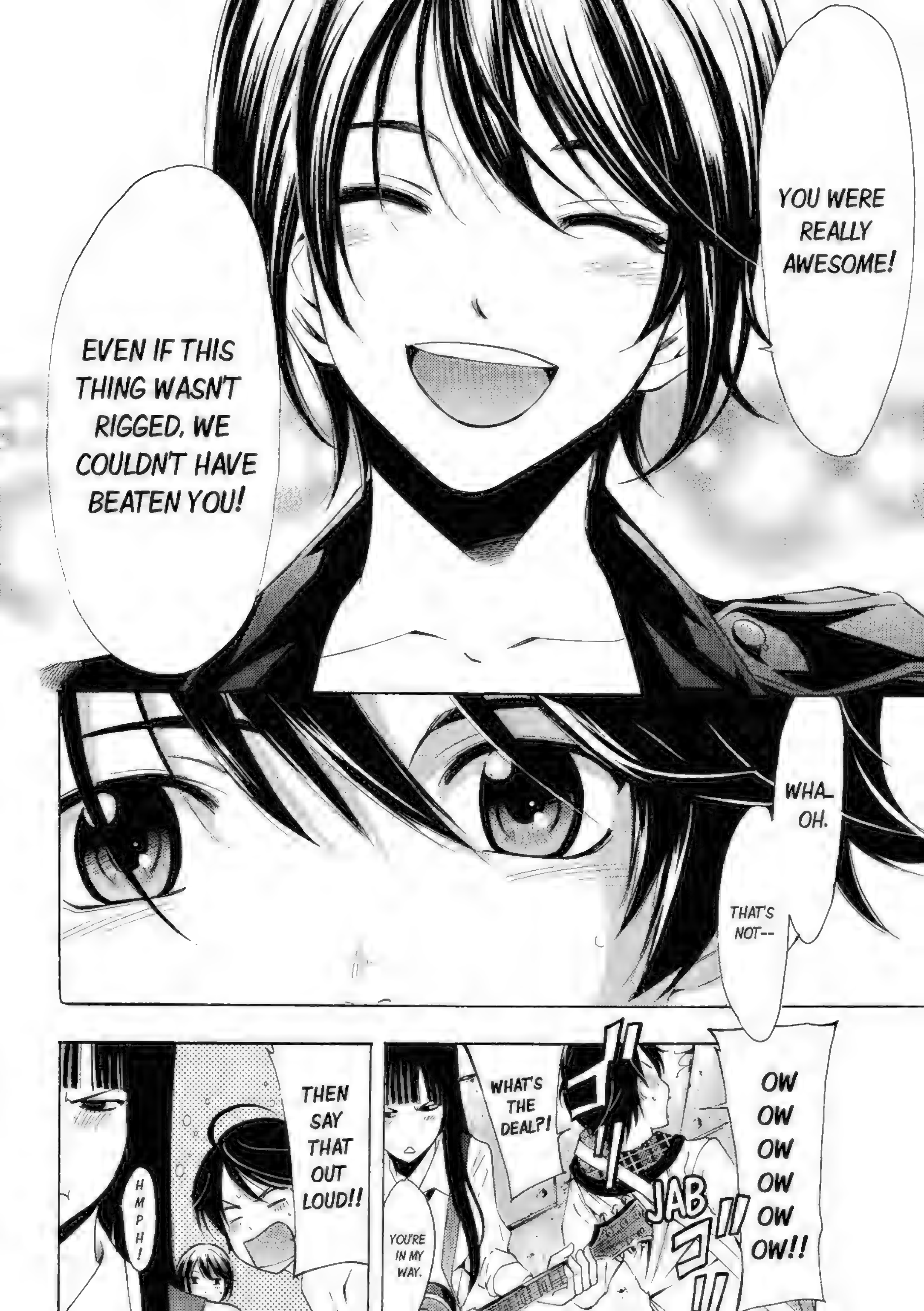

WOOOOOOO
MORE...!
WE HAVE TO PUT MORE OF OUR FEELINGS INTO IT!!
IF WE DO THAT, IT'LL REACH...
...THIS WHOLE HALL, AND EVEN THAT PLACE HIGHER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE.

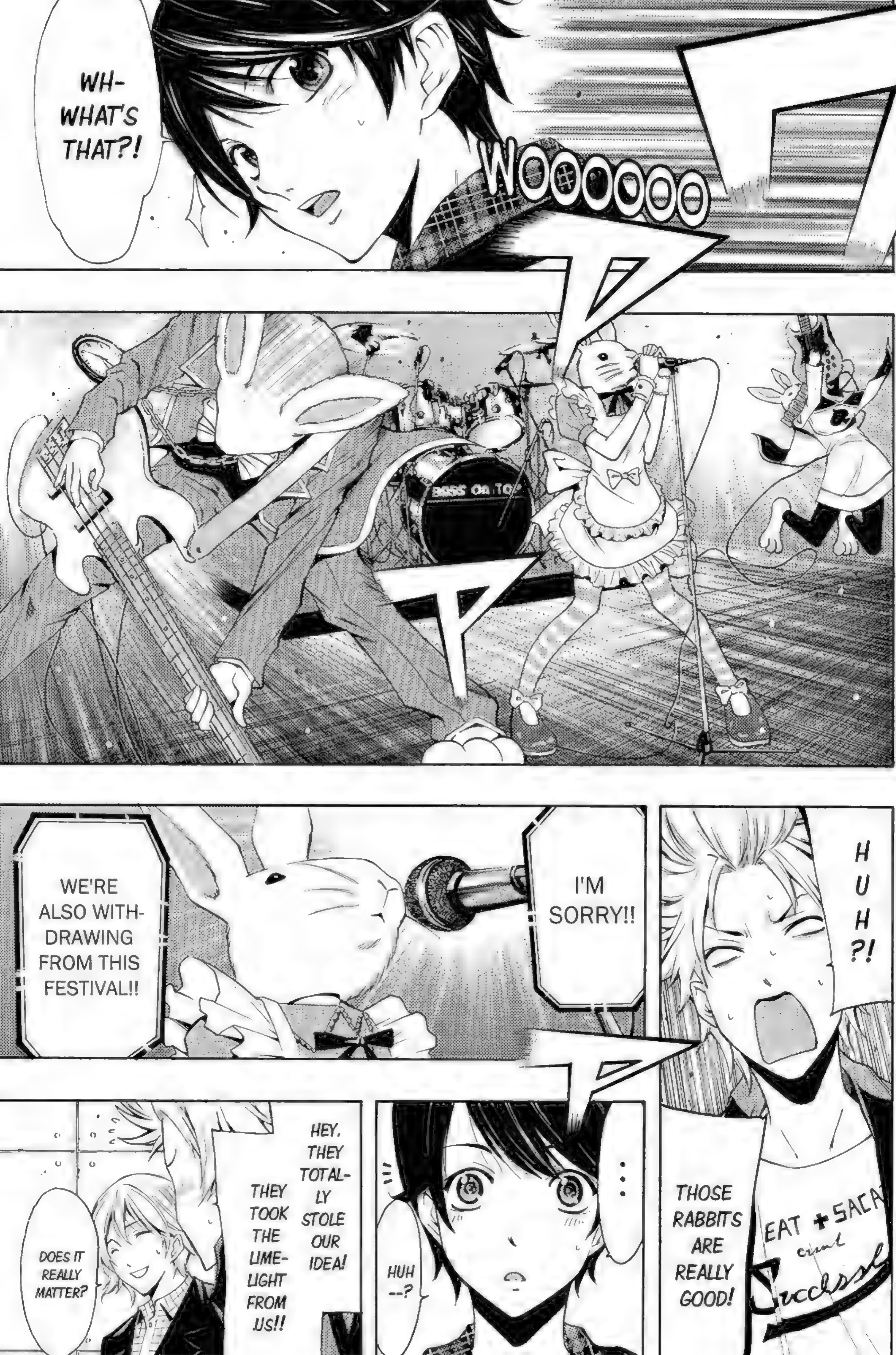

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
WE'LL BE PLAYING MORE GIGS AND STUFF, SO COME SEE US!
MURMUR
MURMUR
HEY... ARE THEY SERIOUSLY WITH-DRAWING FROM THE FESTIVAL?
KIND OF A WASTE, ISN'T IT? THEY'RE TOTALLY THE BEST BAND HERE!
I WANT TO...
...HEAR A LITTLE MORE.
TH-THAT'S RIGHT! I WANNA HEAR MORE, TOO!
YEAH! THAT WASN'T ENOUGH!!
HUH--?
HEY!! IF YOU'RE DROPPING OUT ANY-WAY, PLAY ONE MORE SONG!!
ENCORE!! ENCORE!!

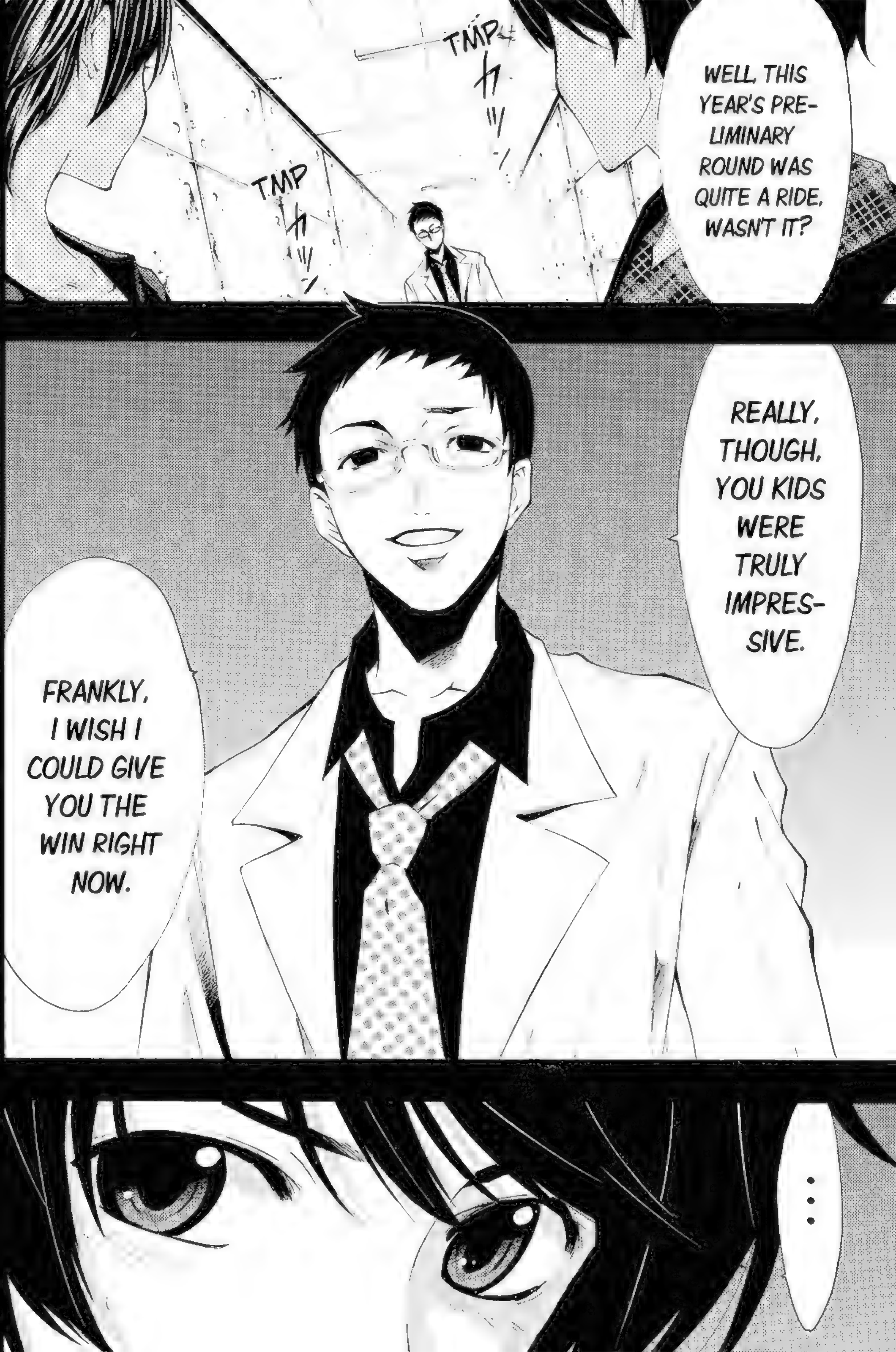

ENCORE!!
ENCORE!!
ENCORE!!
ENCORE!!
SERIOUSLY?
ENCORE!!
TCH!
U-UM... THANK YOU!
OKAY, SINCE YOU ASKED... UH...
THIS IS THE FIRST SONG WE WROTE...
WHOOOOSH
"FAIR WIND"!

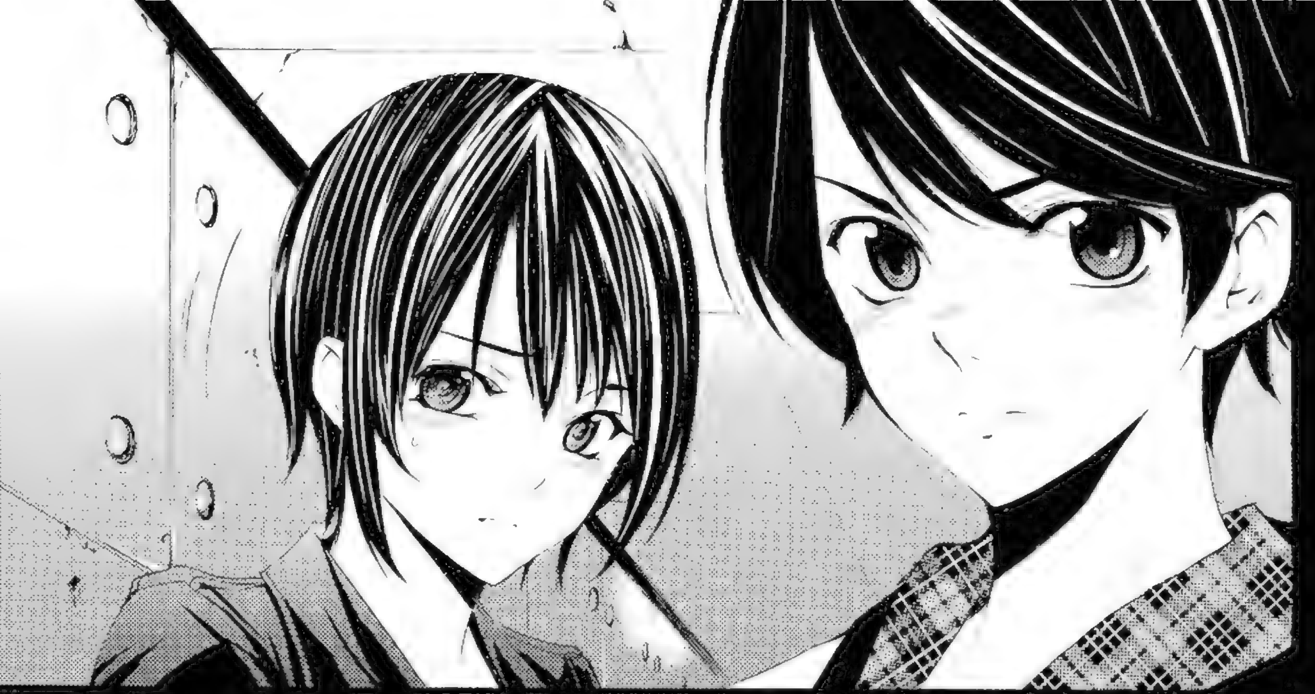

カッ
カッ
TMP
TMP
MAN, I NEVER EXPECTED ENCORE CALLS.
THAT WAS A SURPRISE, HUH?
SHFF


HEY, YOU'RE FROM THAT BAND EARLIER...
AOI?
TWITCH
ピク…
Y-YOU KNOW HER?
Y-YEAH. SHE WAS WITH ME WHEN I HEARD THE PRODUCER TALKING.
I SWEAR, ARE YOU THAT STUPID?
DROPPING OUT JUST LIKE THAT...
W-WELL...
I FIGURED IF WE COULDN'T WIN ANYWAY.
BUT...
SOMEHOW, I FEEL BETTER AFTER SEEING YOU GUYS PLAY.
HUH--?


YOU WERE REALLY AWESOME!
EVEN IF THIS THING WASN'T RIGGED, WE COULDN'T HAVE BEATEN YOU!
WHA— OH.
THAT'S NOT--
OW OW OW OW OW OW!!
JAB
WHAT'S THE DEAL?!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
THEN SAY THAT OUT LOUD!!
HMPH!


WOOOOOO
WH- WHAT'S THAT?!
BASS ON TO
HUH?!
I'M SORRY!!
WE'RE ALSO WITHDRAWING FROM THIS FESTIVAL!!
THOSE RABBITS ARE REALLY GOOD!
...
HUH--?
HEY, THEY TOTALLY STOLE OUR IDEA!
THEY TOOK THE LIMELIGHT FROM US!!
DOES IT REALLY MATTER?


WELL, THIS YEAR'S PRELIMINARY ROUND WAS QUITE A RIDE, WASN'T IT?
TMP
TMP
REALLY, THOUGH, YOU KIDS WERE TRULY IMPRESSIVE.
FRANKLY, I WISH I COULD GIVE YOU THE WIN RIGHT NOW.
...



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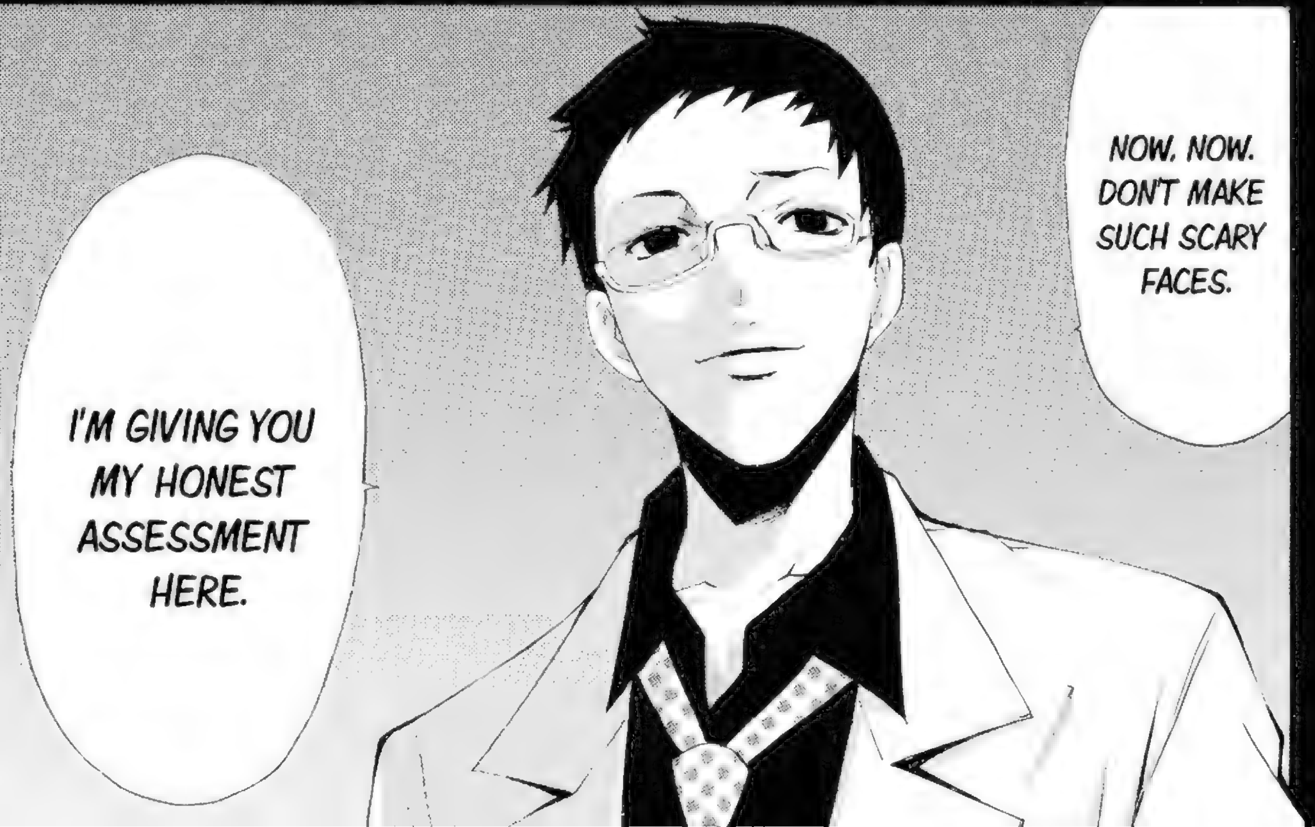
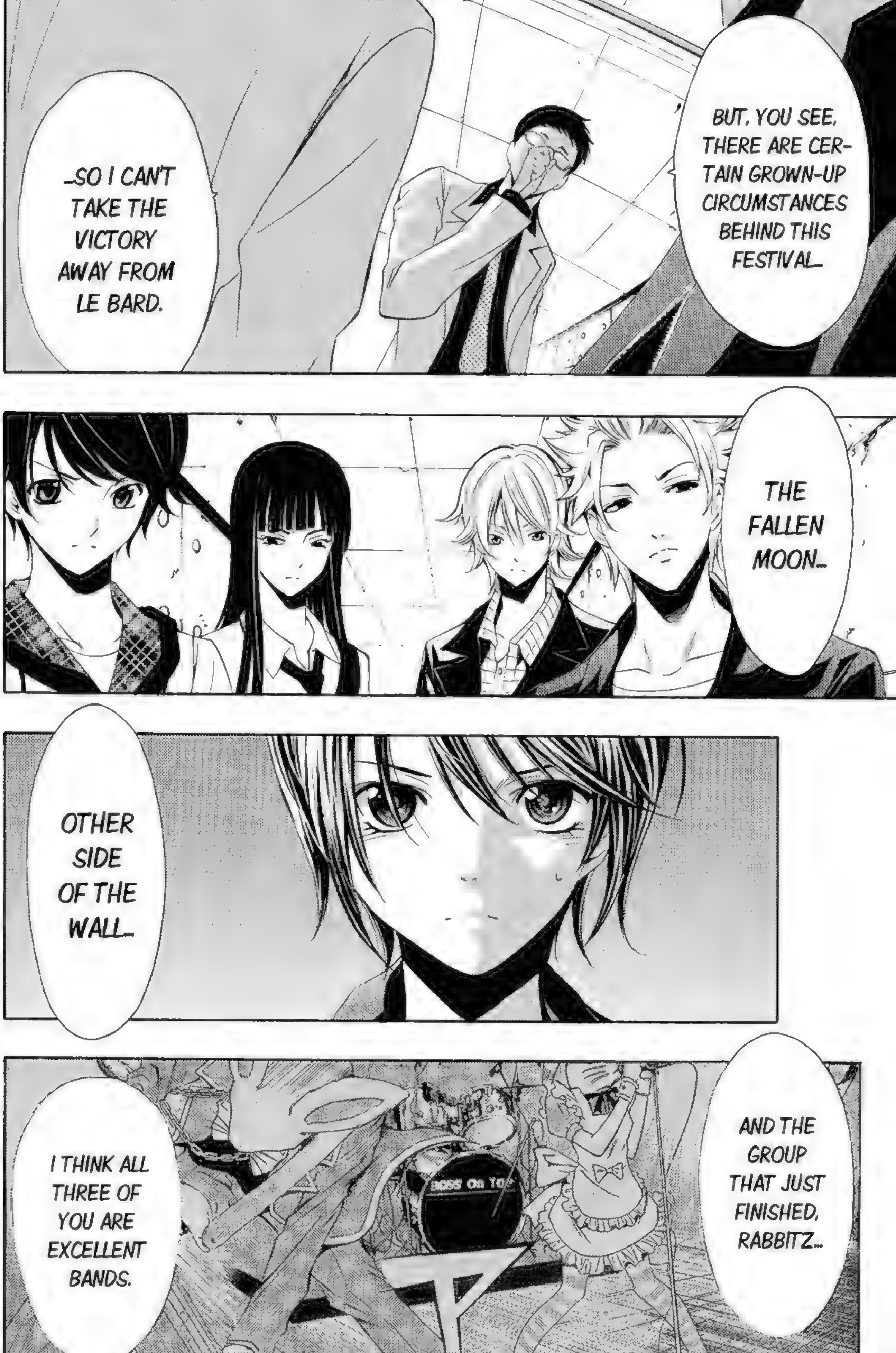
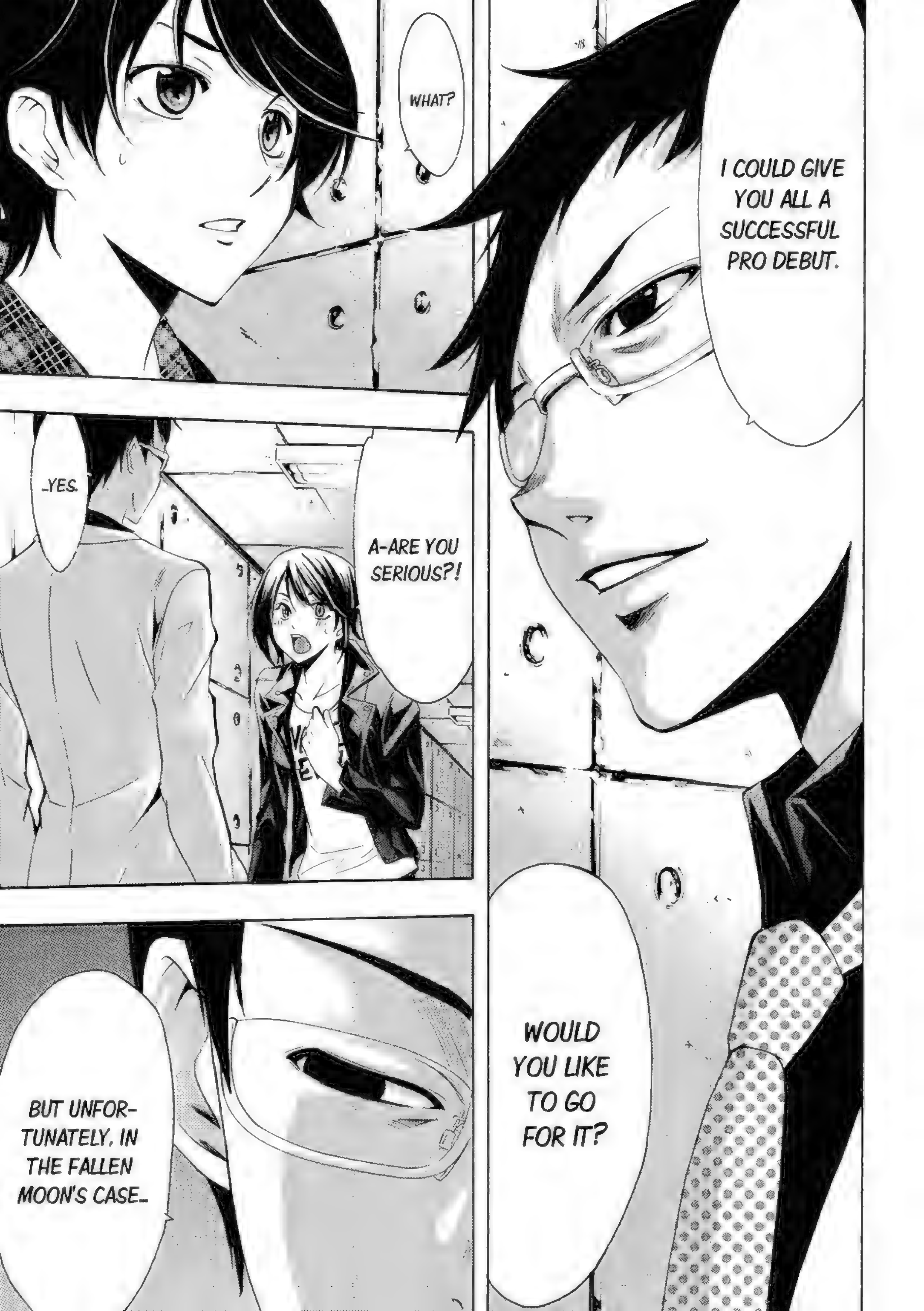
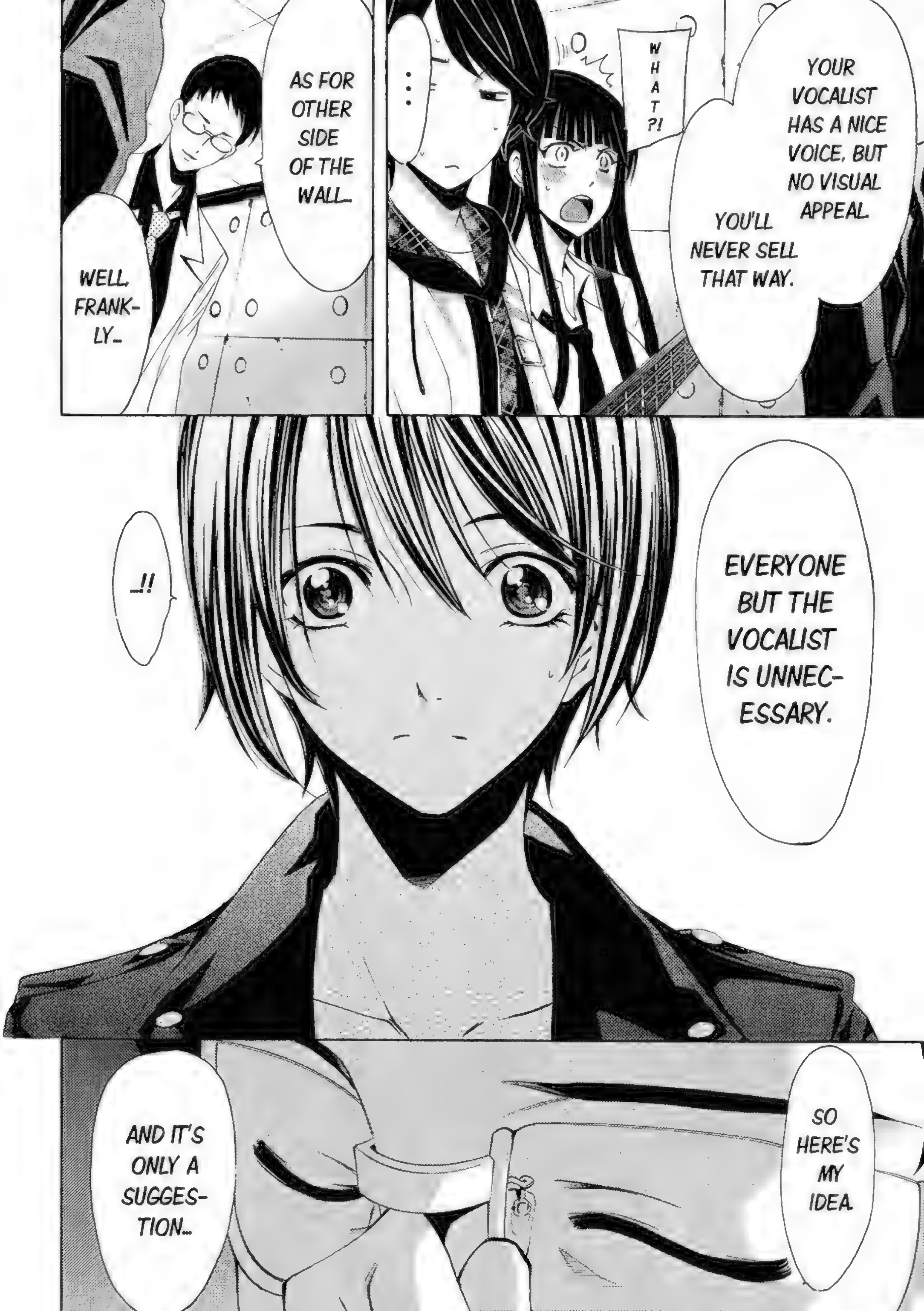
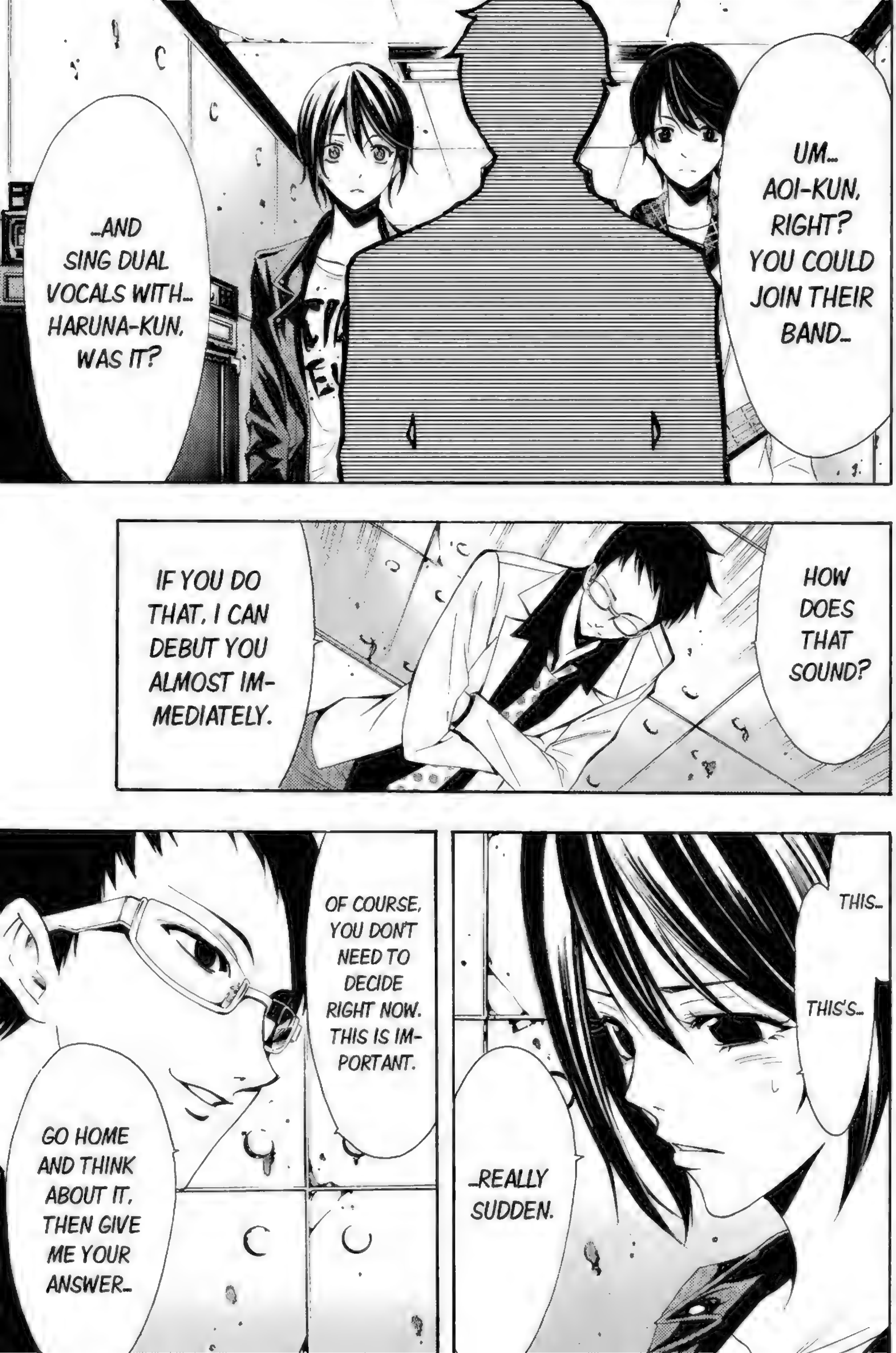
# 57 HESITATION.

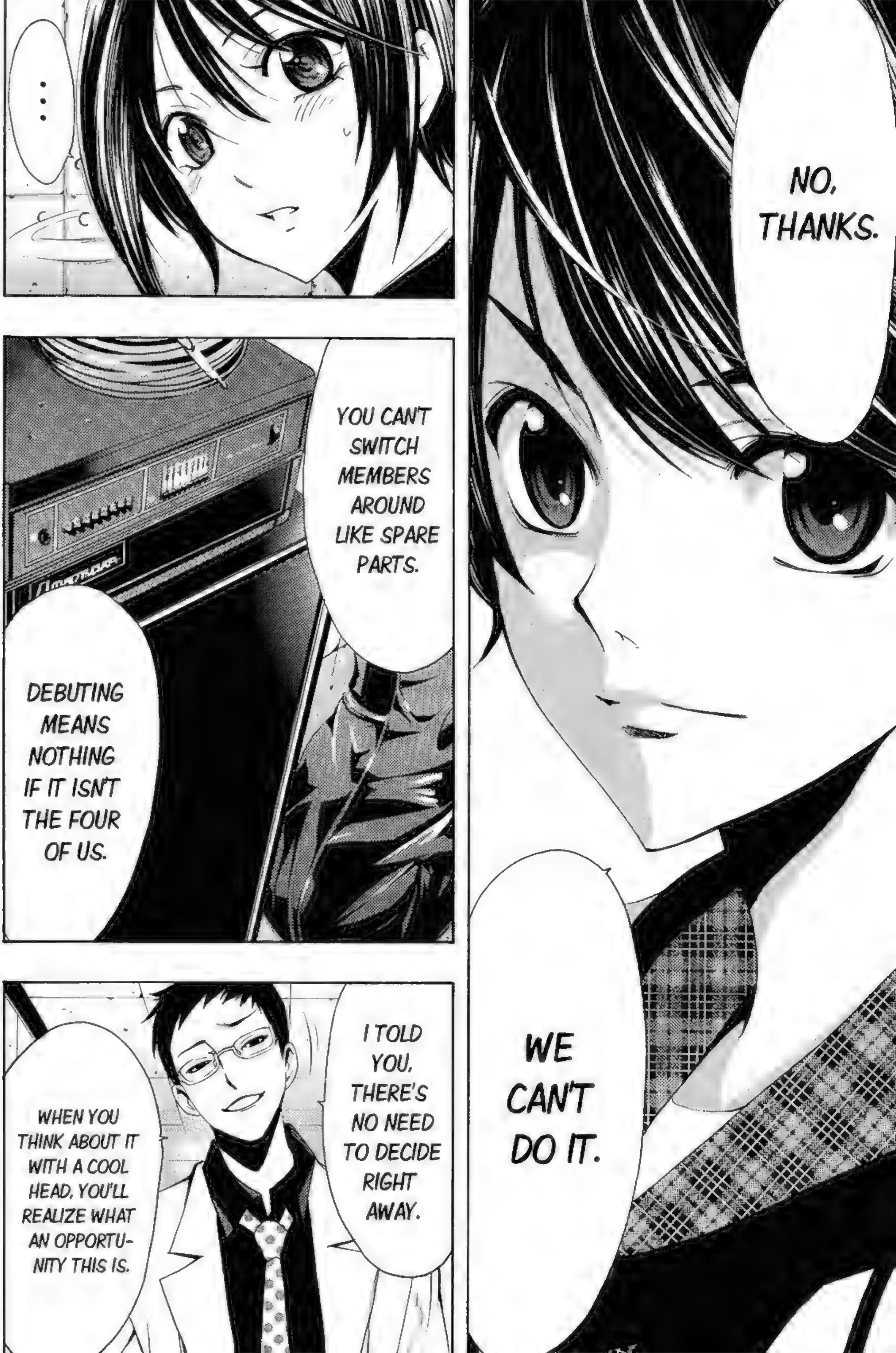

NOW, NOW. DON'T MAKE SUCH SCARY FACES.
I'M GIVING YOU MY HONEST ASSESSMENT HERE.

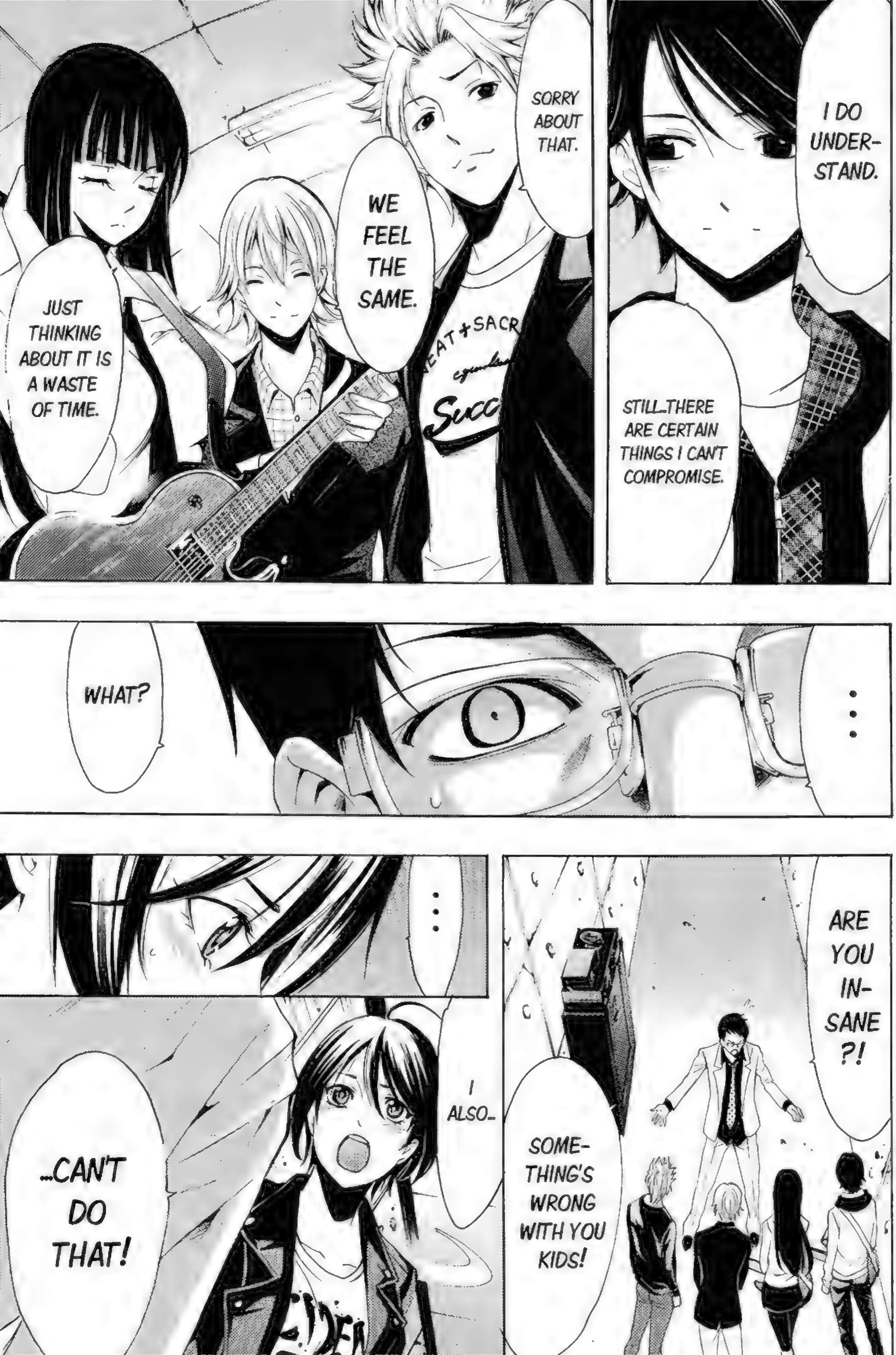

BUT, YOU SEE, THERE ARE CERTAIN GROWN-UP CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND THIS FESTIVAL...
...SO I CAN'T TAKE THE VICTORY AWAY FROM LE BARD.
THE FALLEN MOON...
OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL...
AND THE GROUP THAT JUST FINISHED, RABBITZ...
I THINK ALL THREE OF YOU ARE EXCELLENT BANDS.

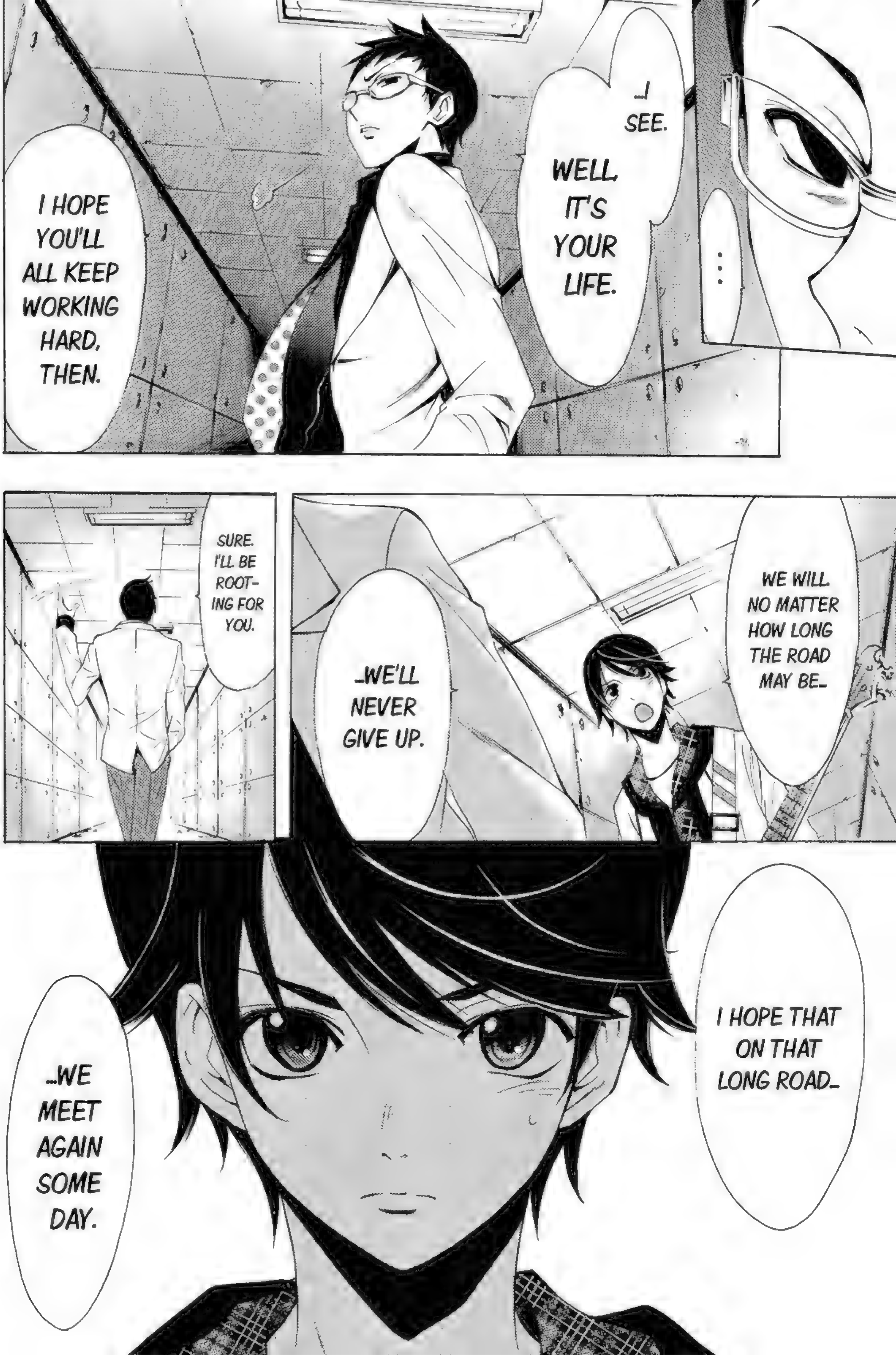

I COULD GIVE YOU ALL A SUCCESSFUL PRO DEBUT.
WHAT?
A-ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
..YES.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FOR IT?
BUT UNFOR-TUNATELY, IN THE FALLEN MOON'S CASE...

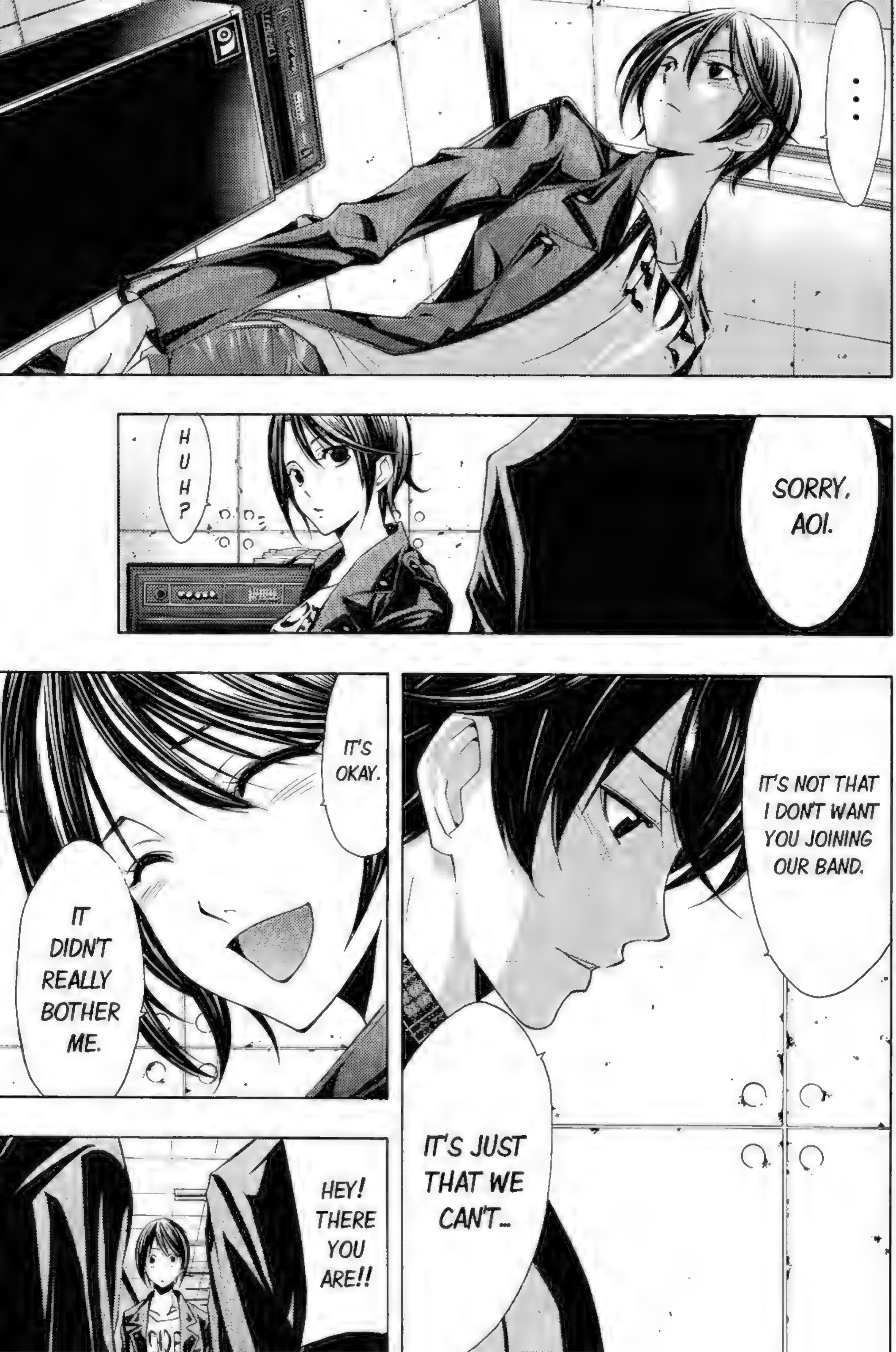

YOUR VOCALIST HAS A NICE VOICE, BUT NO VISUAL APPEAL.
YOU'LL NEVER SELL THAT WAY.
WHAT?!
…
AS FOR OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL…
WELL, FRANKLY…
EVERYONE BUT THE VOCALIST IS UNNECESSARY.
…!!
SO HERE'S MY IDEA.
AND IT'S ONLY A SUGGESTION…

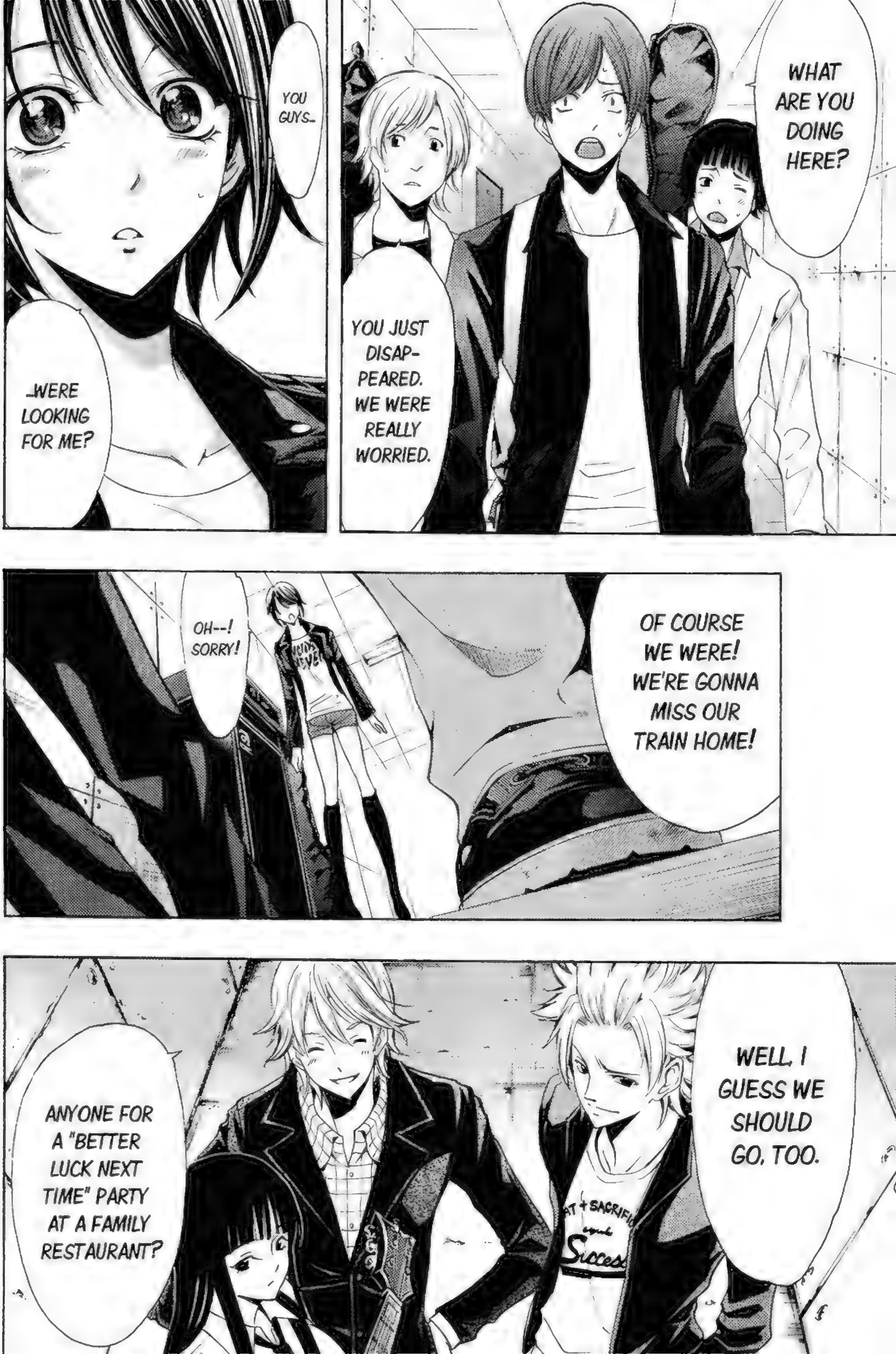

UM... AOI-KUN, RIGHT? YOU COULD JOIN THEIR BAND...
...AND SING DUAL VOCALS WITH... HARUNA-KUN, WAS IT?
HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
IF YOU DO THAT, I CAN DEBUT YOU ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.
THIS...
THIS'S...
...REALLY SUDDEN.
OF COURSE, YOU DON'T NEED TO DECIDE RIGHT NOW. THIS IS IMPORTANT.
GO HOME AND THINK ABOUT IT, THEN GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER...

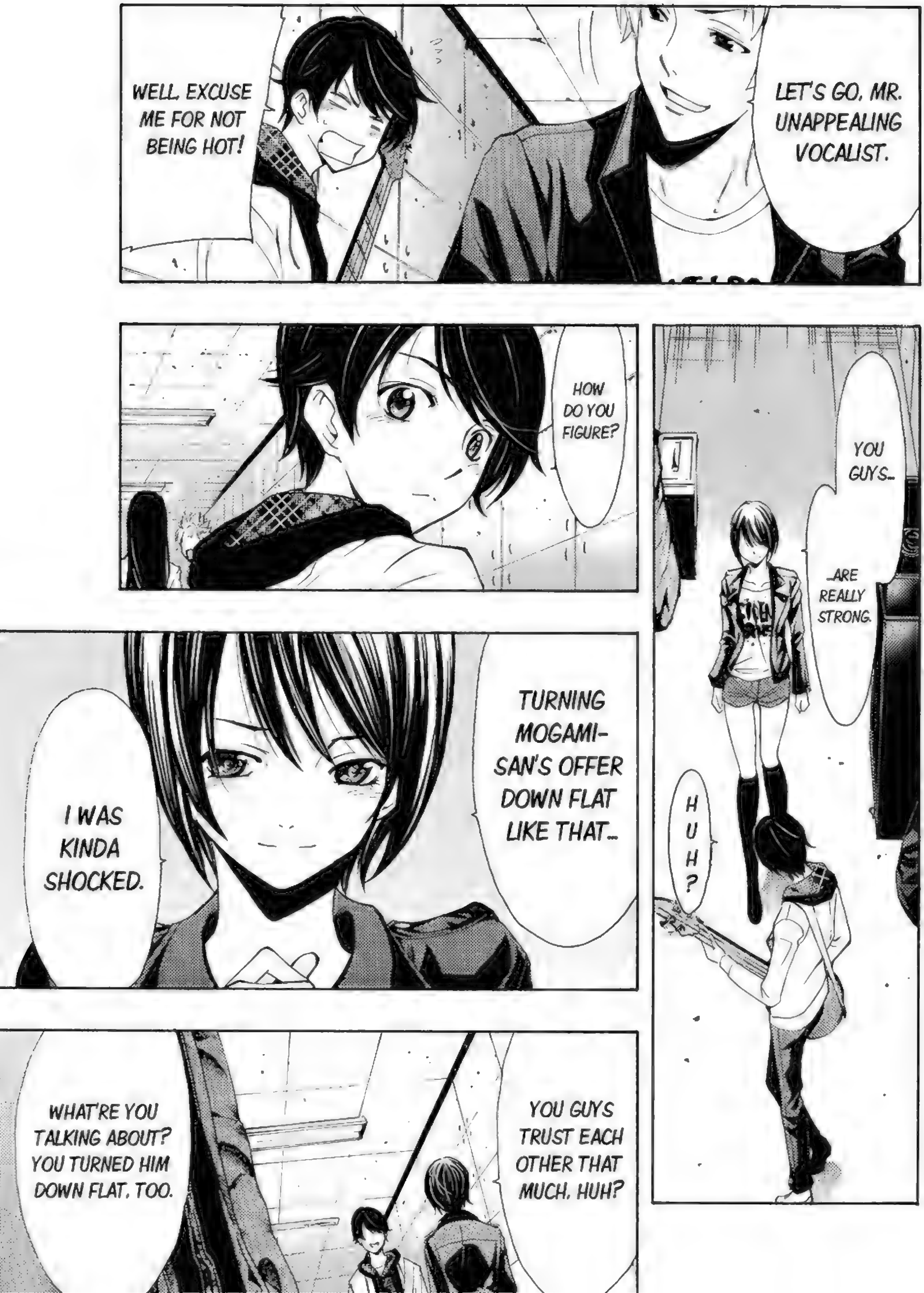

NO, THANKS.
WE CAN'T DO IT.
....
YOU CAN'T SWITCH MEMBERS AROUND LIKE SPARE PARTS.
DEBUTING MEANS NOTHING IF IT ISN'T THE FOUR OF US.
I TOLD YOU, THERE'S NO NEED TO DECIDE RIGHT AWAY.
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT WITH A COOL HEAD, YOU'LL REALIZE WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY THIS IS.

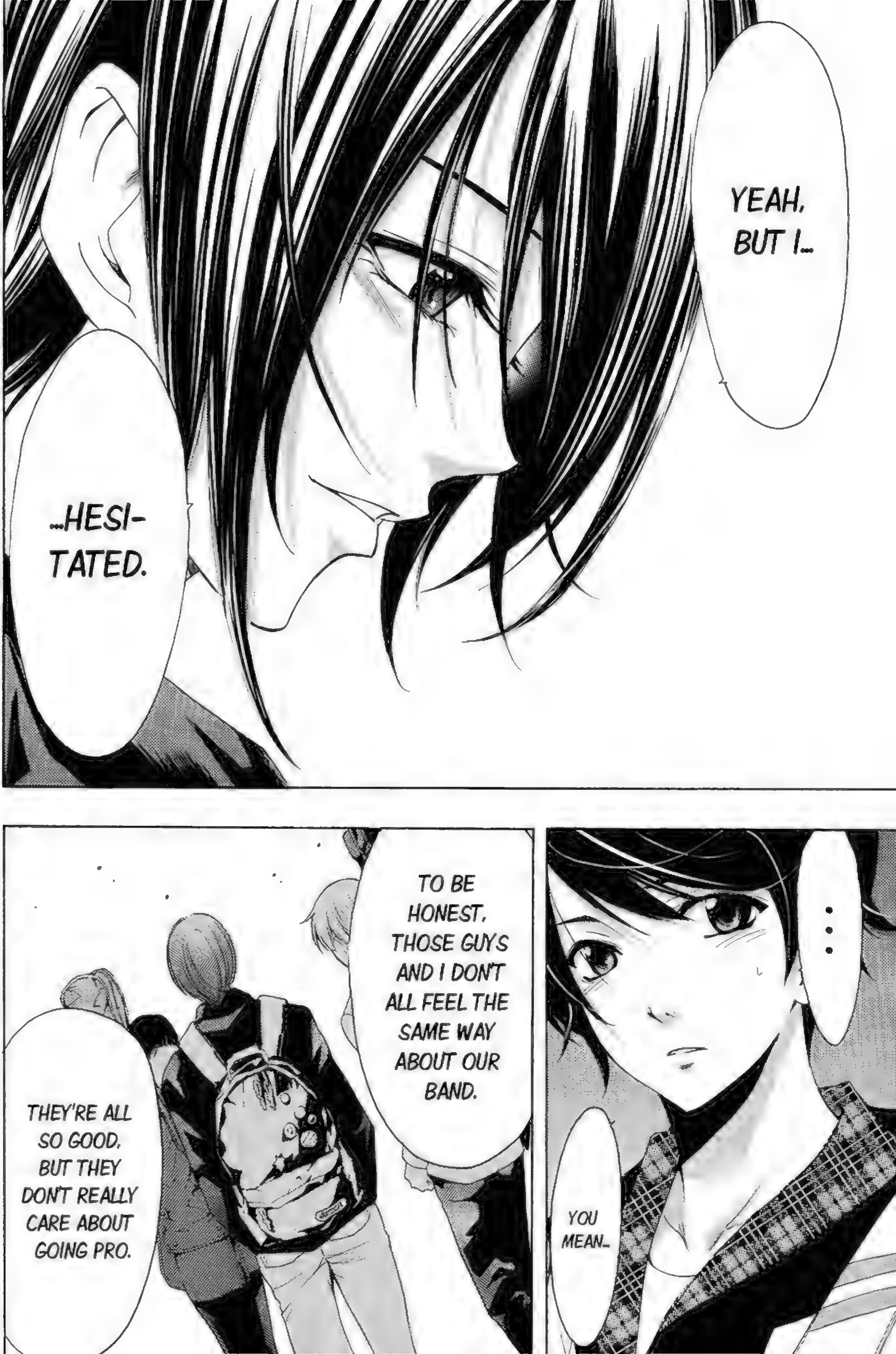

I DO UNDERSTAND.
STILL...THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS I CAN'T COMPROMISE.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WE FEEL THE SAME.
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT IS A WASTE OF TIME.
...
WHAT?
ARE YOU INSANE?!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOU KIDS!
...
I ALSO...
...CAN'T DO THAT!

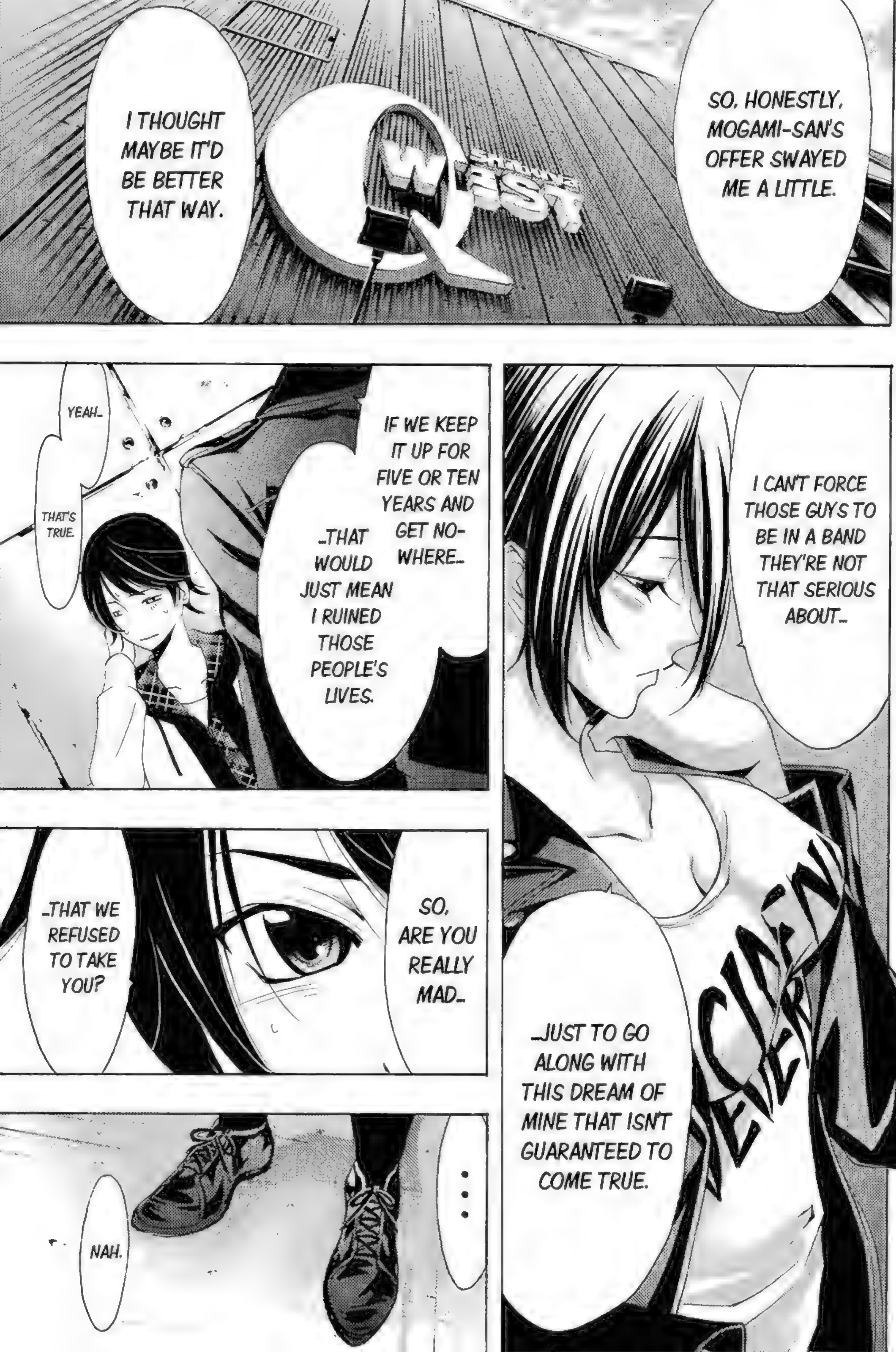

…
…I SEE.
WELL, IT'S YOUR LIFE.
I HOPE YOU'LL ALL KEEP WORKING HARD, THEN.
WE WILL NO MATTER HOW LONG THE ROAD MAY BE…
…WE'LL NEVER GIVE UP.
SURE. I'LL BE ROOTING FOR YOU.
I HOPE THAT ON THAT LONG ROAD…
…WE MEET AGAIN SOME DAY.

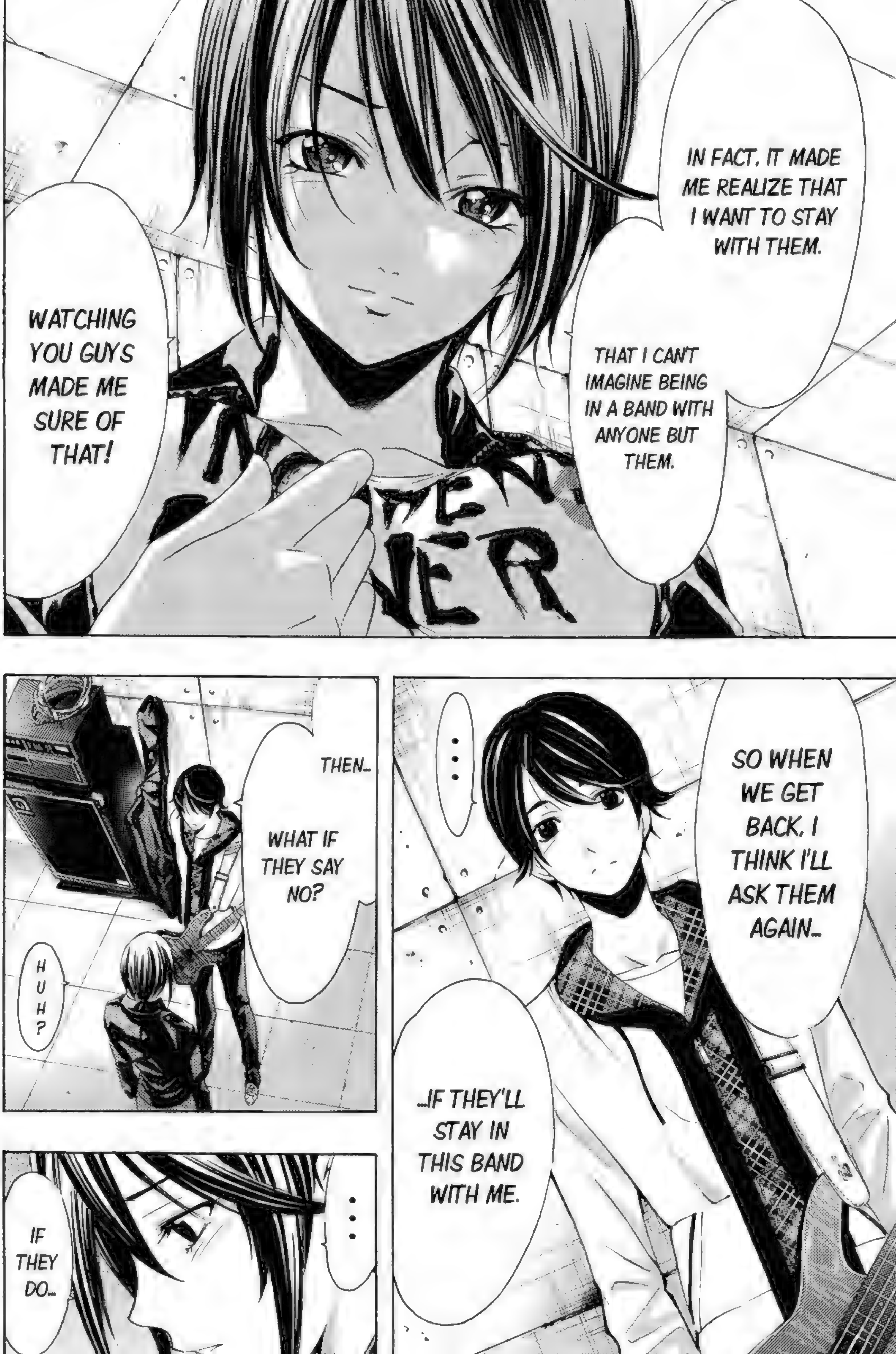

...
SORRY, AOI.
HUH?
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT YOU JOINING OUR BAND.
IT'S JUST THAT WE CAN'T...
IT'S OKAY.
IT DIDN'T REALLY BOTHER ME.
HEY! THERE YOU ARE!!

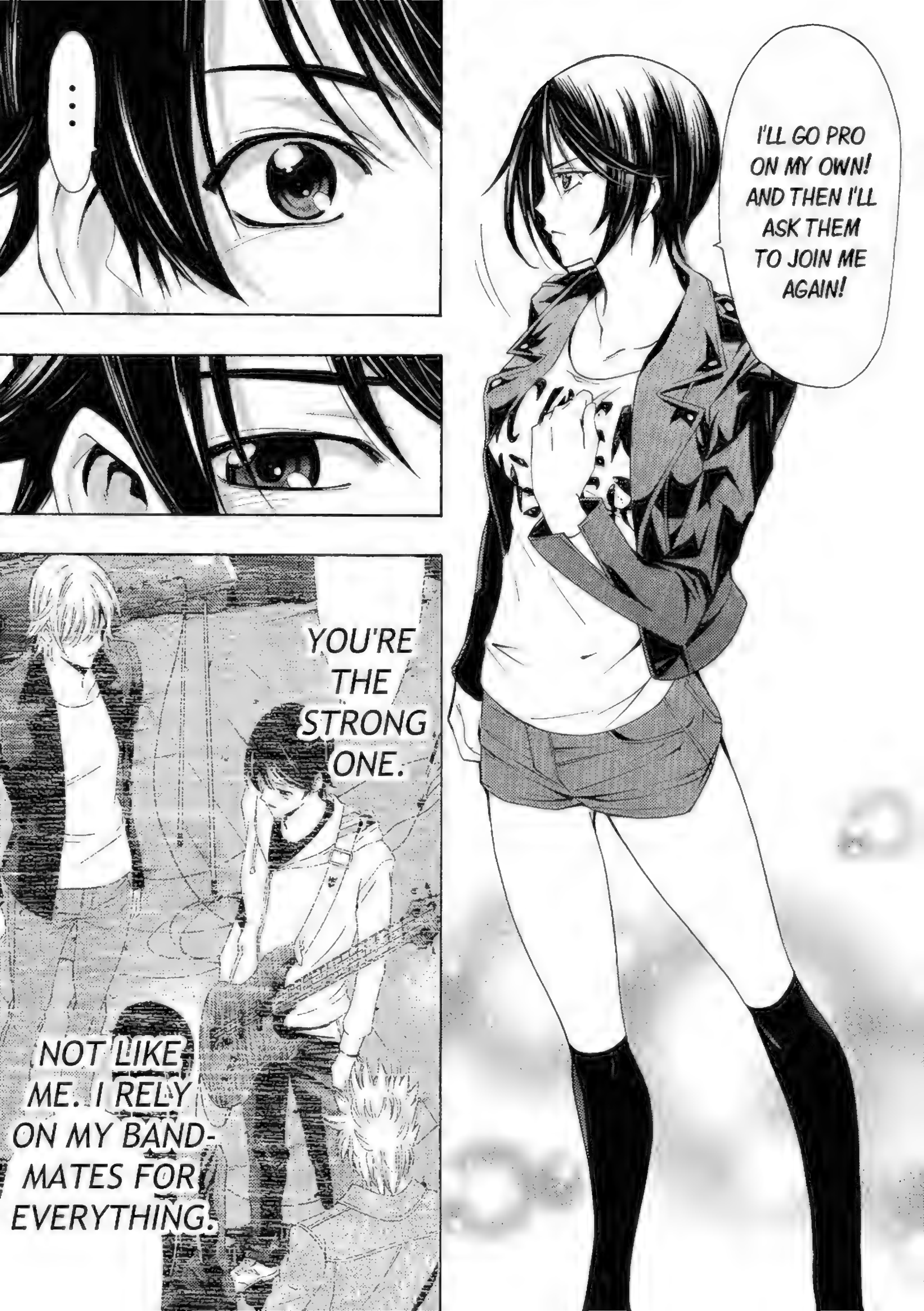

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU JUST DISAPPEARED. WE WERE REALLY WORRIED.
YOU GUYS...
...WERE LOOKING FOR ME?
OF COURSE WE WERE! WE'RE GONNA MISS OUR TRAIN HOME!
OH--! SORRY!
WELL, I GUESS WE SHOULD GO, TOO.
ANYONE FOR A "BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME" PARTY AT A FAMILY RESTAURANT?

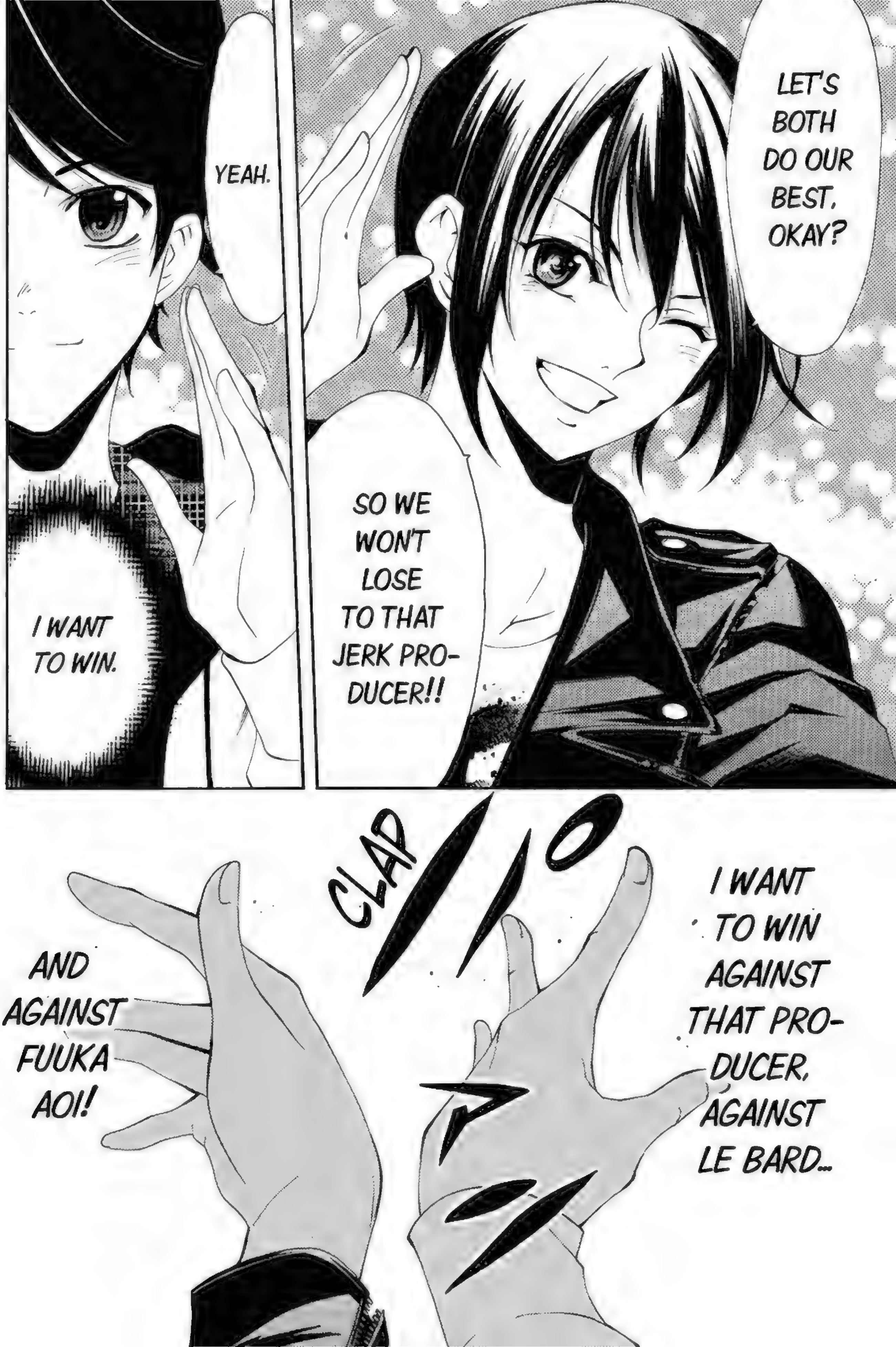

LET'S GO, MR. UNAPPEALING VOCALIST.
WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR NOT BEING HOT!
YOU GUYS...
...ARE REALLY STRONG.
HUH?
HOW DO YOU FIGURE?
TURNING MOGAMI-SAN'S OFFER DOWN FLAT LIKE THAT...
I WAS KINDA SHOCKED.
YOU GUYS TRUST EACH OTHER THAT MUCH, HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU TURNED HIM DOWN FLAT, TOO.

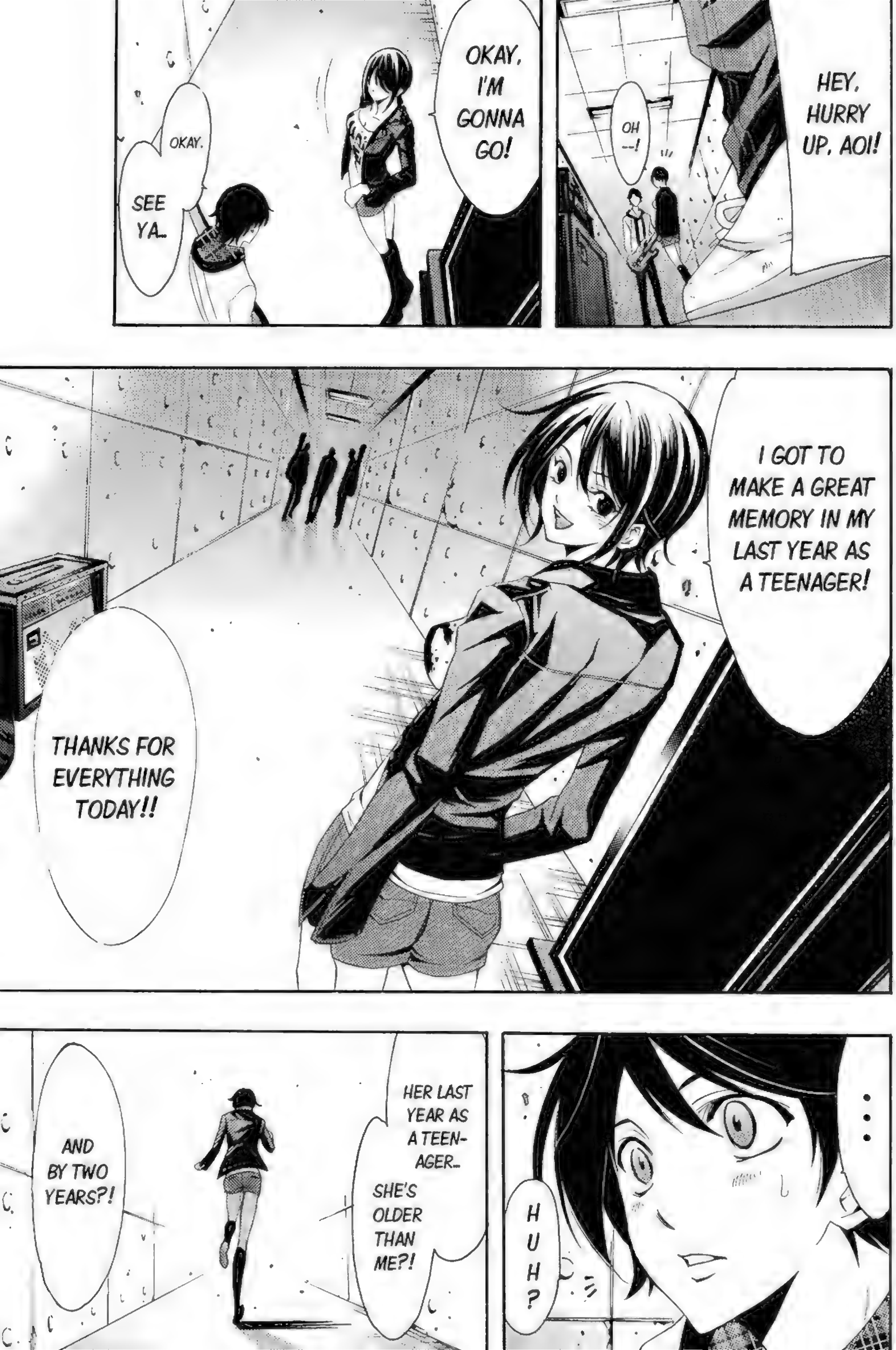

YEAH, BUT I...
...HESITATED.
....
YOU MEAN...
TO BE HONEST, THOSE GUYS AND I DON'T ALL FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT OUR BAND.
THEY'RE ALL SO GOOD, BUT THEY DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT GOING PRO.

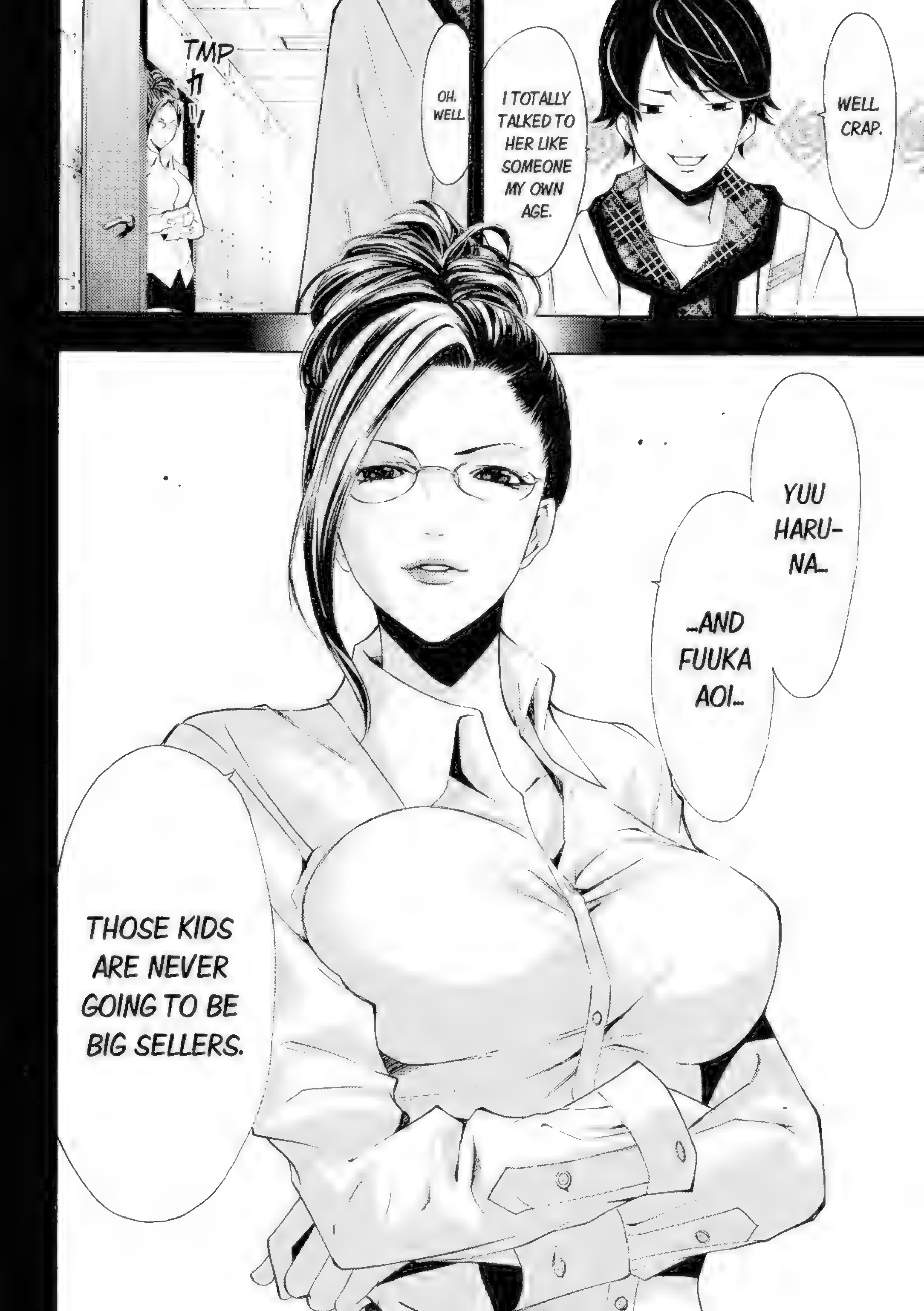

SO, HONESTLY, MOGAMI-SAN'S OFFER SWAYED ME A LITTLE.
WEST
I THOUGHT MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER THAT WAY.
I CAN'T FORCE THOSE GUYS TO BE IN A BAND THEY'RE NOT THAT SERIOUS ABOUT...
...JUST TO GO ALONG WITH THIS DREAM OF MINE THAT ISN'T GUARANTEED TO COME TRUE.
IF WE KEEP IT UP FOR FIVE OR TEN YEARS AND GET NOWHERE...
...THAT WOULD JUST MEAN I RUINED THOSE PEOPLE'S LIVES.
YEAH...
THAT'S TRUE.
SO, ARE YOU REALLY MAD...
...THAT WE REFUSED TO TAKE YOU?
...
NAH.

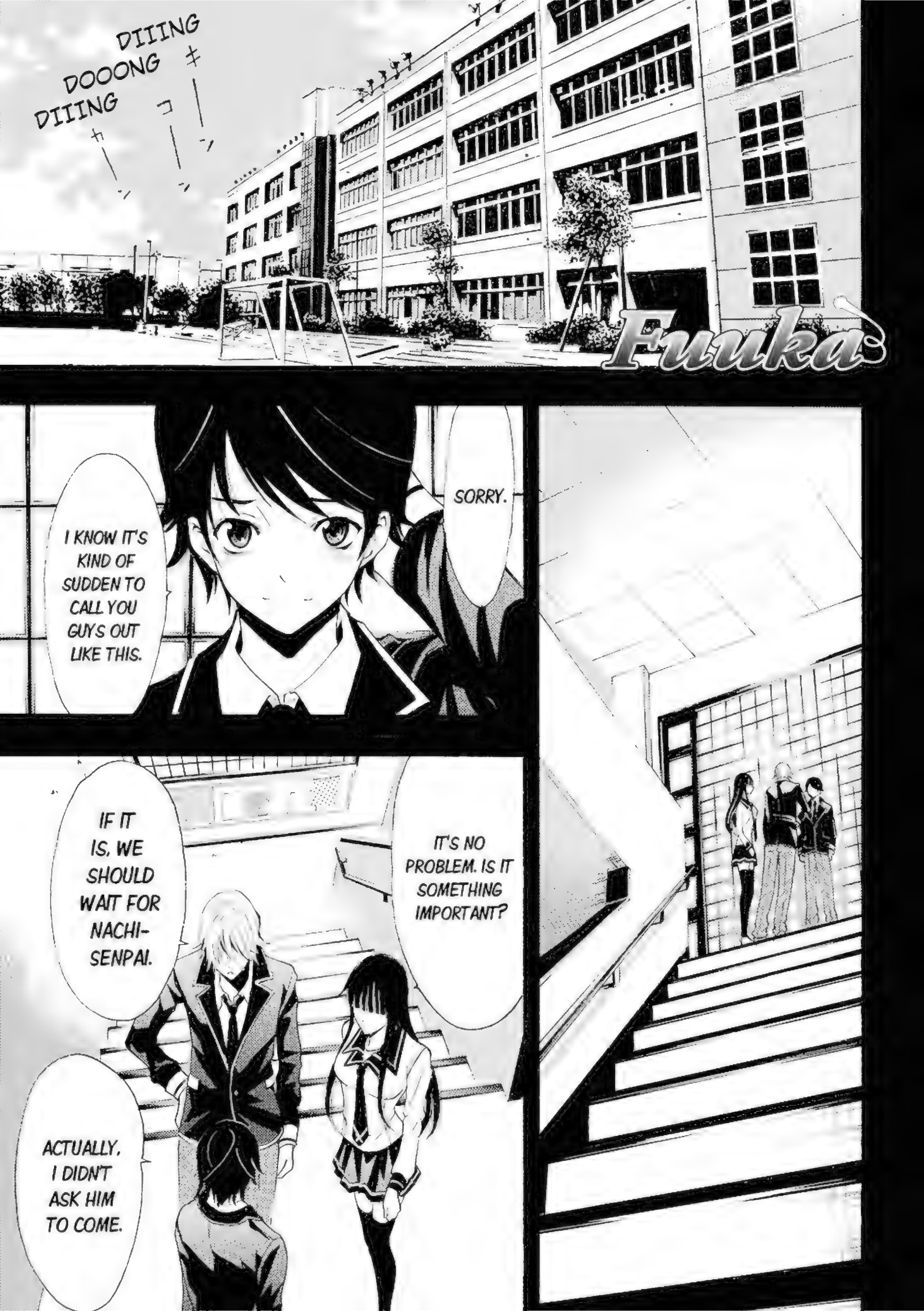

IN FACT, IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT I WANT TO STAY WITH THEM.
THAT I CAN'T IMAGINE BEING IN A BAND WITH ANYONE BUT THEM.
WATCHING YOU GUYS MADE ME SURE OF THAT!
SO WHEN WE GET BACK, I THINK I'LL ASK THEM AGAIN...
...
...IF THEY'LL STAY IN THIS BAND WITH ME.
THEN... WHAT IF THEY SAY NO?
HUH?
...
IF THEY DO...

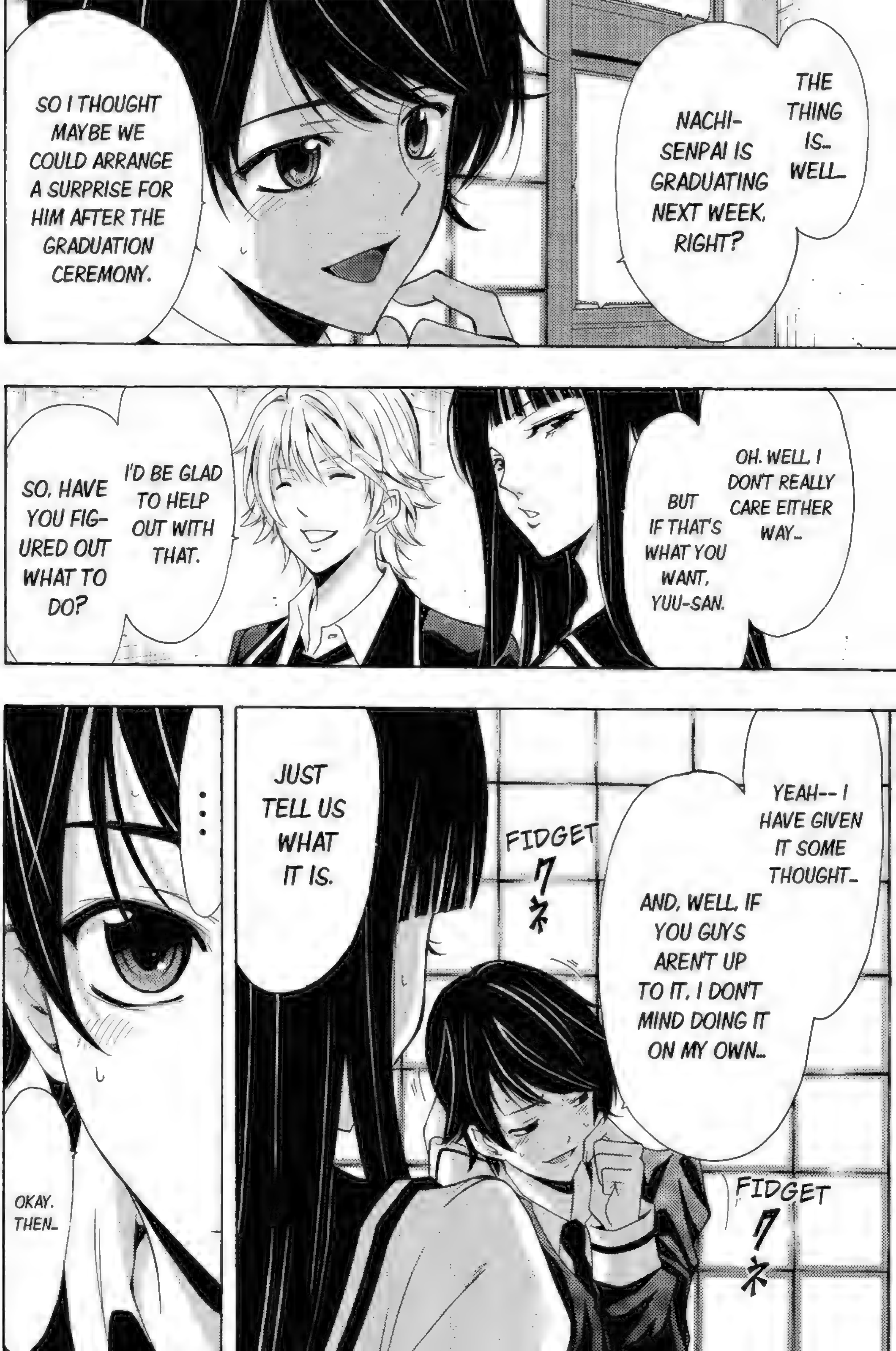

I'LL GO PRO ON MY OWN! AND THEN I'LL ASK THEM TO JOIN ME AGAIN!
...
YOU'RE THE STRONG ONE.
NOT LIKE ME. I RELY ON MY BANDMATES FOR EVERYTHING.


LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST, OKAY?
SO WE WON'T LOSE TO THAT JERK PRODUCER!!
YEAH.
I WANT TO WIN.
CLAP
I WANT TO WIN AGAINST THAT PRODUCER, AGAINST LE BARD...
AND AGAINST FUUKA AOI!

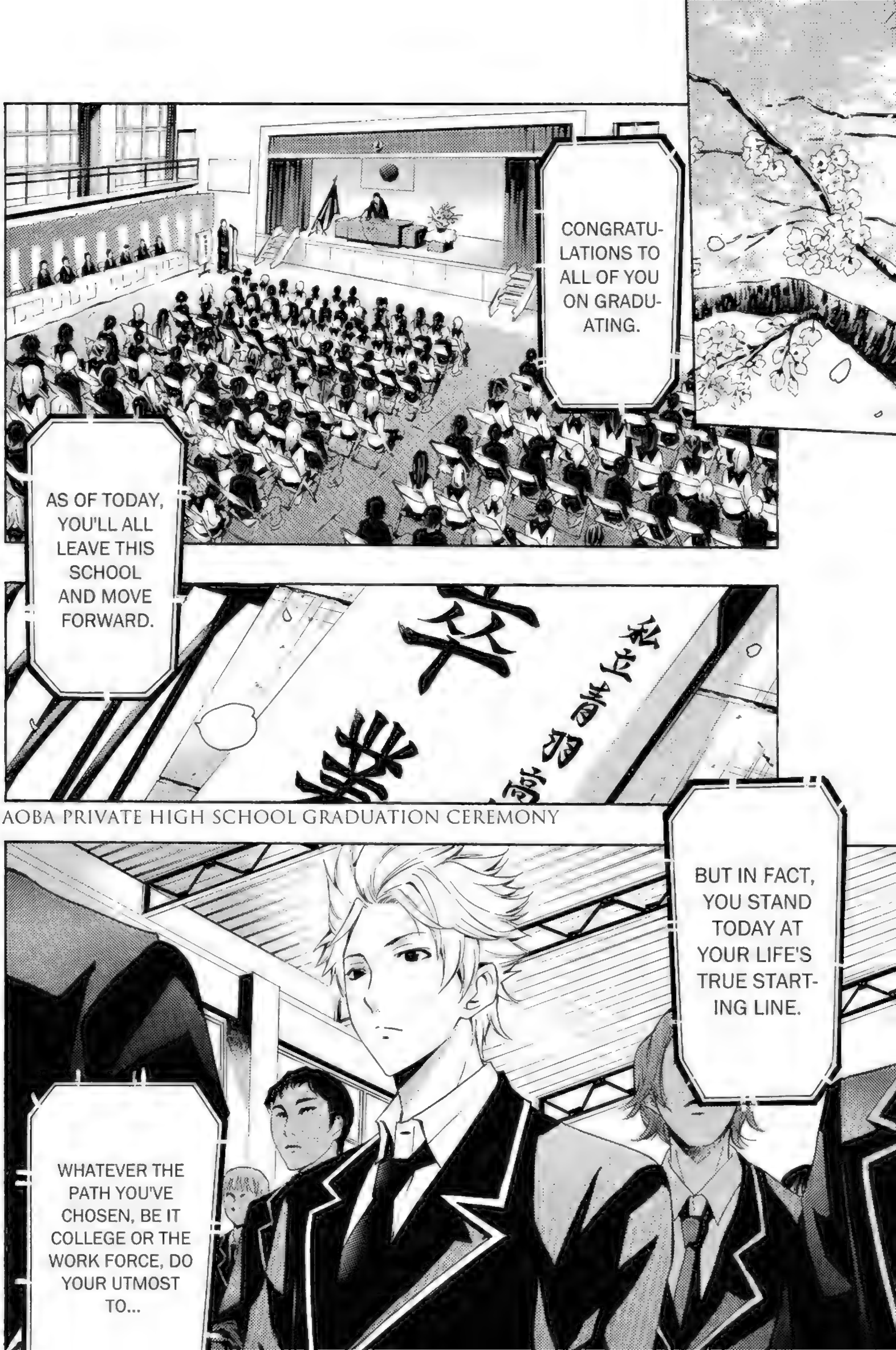

HEY, HURRY UP, AOI!
OH --!
OKAY, I'M GONNA GO!
OKAY.
SEE YA..
I GOT TO MAKE A GREAT MEMORY IN MY LAST YEAR AS A TEENAGER!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING TODAY!!
...
HUH?
HER LAST YEAR AS A TEENAGER..
SHE'S OLDER THAN ME?!
AND BY TWO YEARS?!

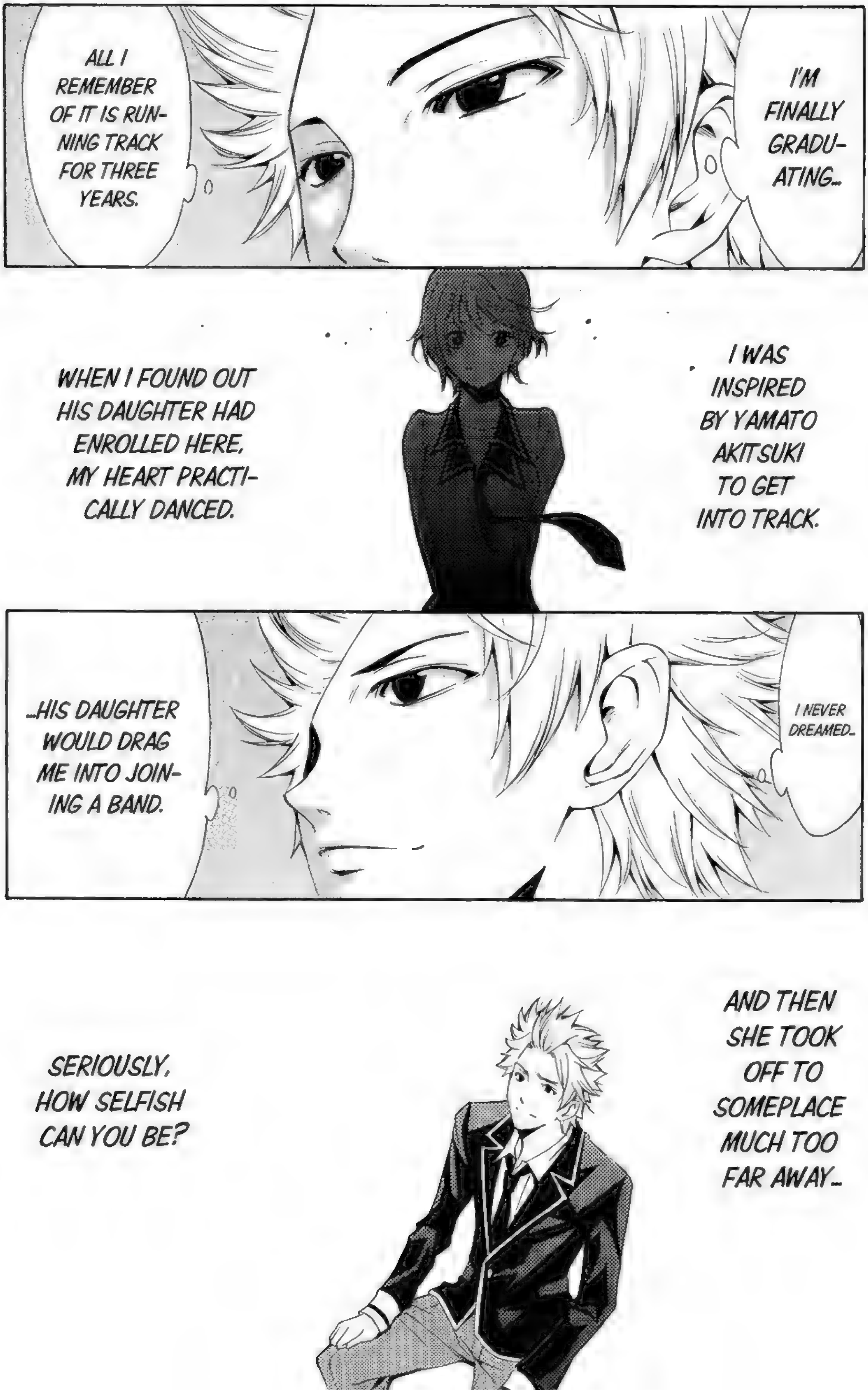

WELL. CRAP.
I TOTALLY TALKED TO HER LIKE SOMEONE MY OWN AGE.
OH, WELL.
TMP
カッ!
YUU HARUNA...
...AND FUUKA AOI...
THOSE KIDS ARE NEVER GOING TO BE BIG SELLERS.

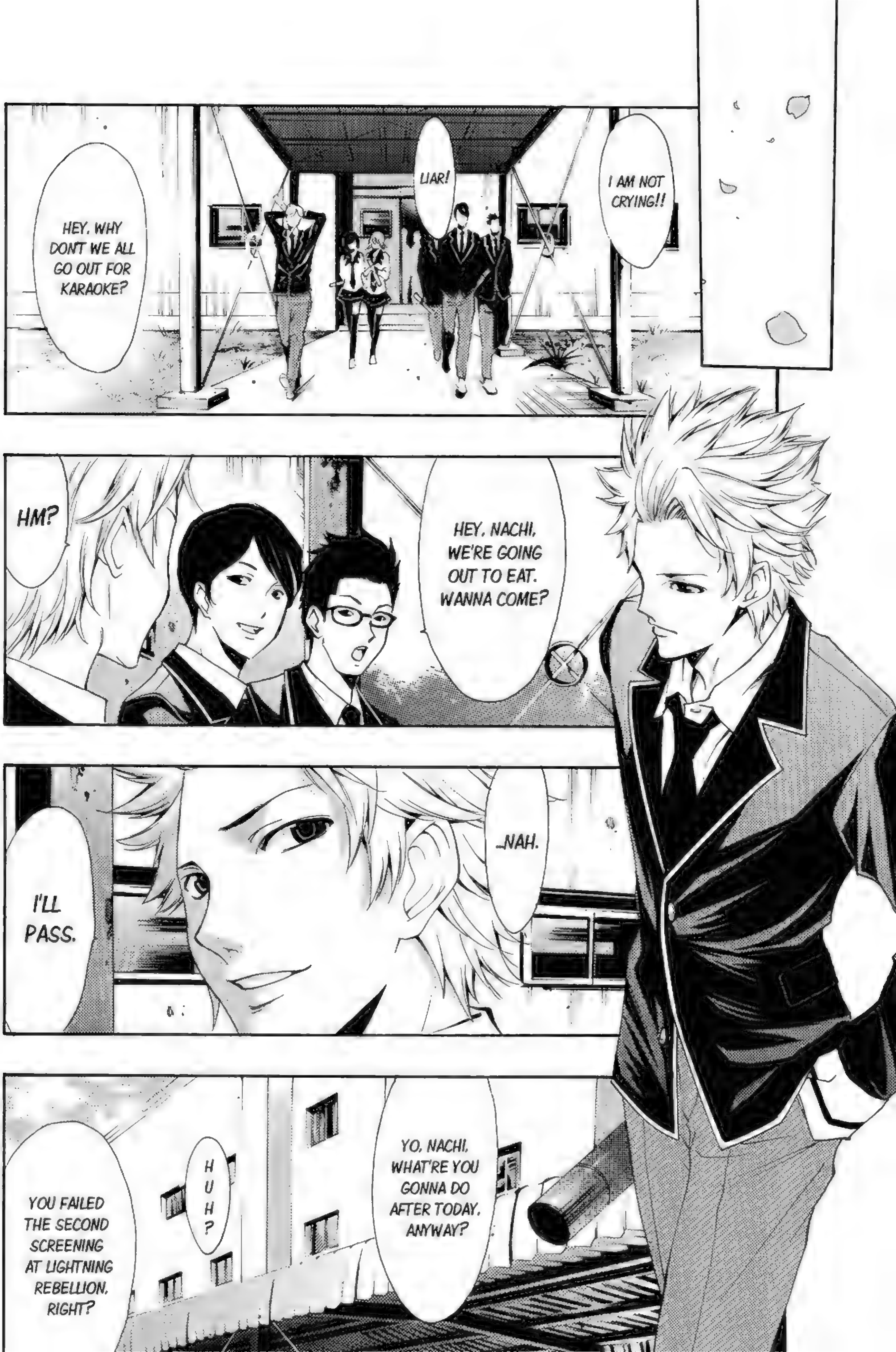

DIIING
DOOONG
DIIING
キーン
コーン
カーン
Fuuka
SORRY.
I KNOW IT'S KIND OF SUDDEN TO CALL YOU GUYS OUT LIKE THIS.
IT'S NO PROBLEM. IS IT SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
IF IT IS, WE SHOULD WAIT FOR NACHI-SENPAI.
ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T ASK HIM TO COME.

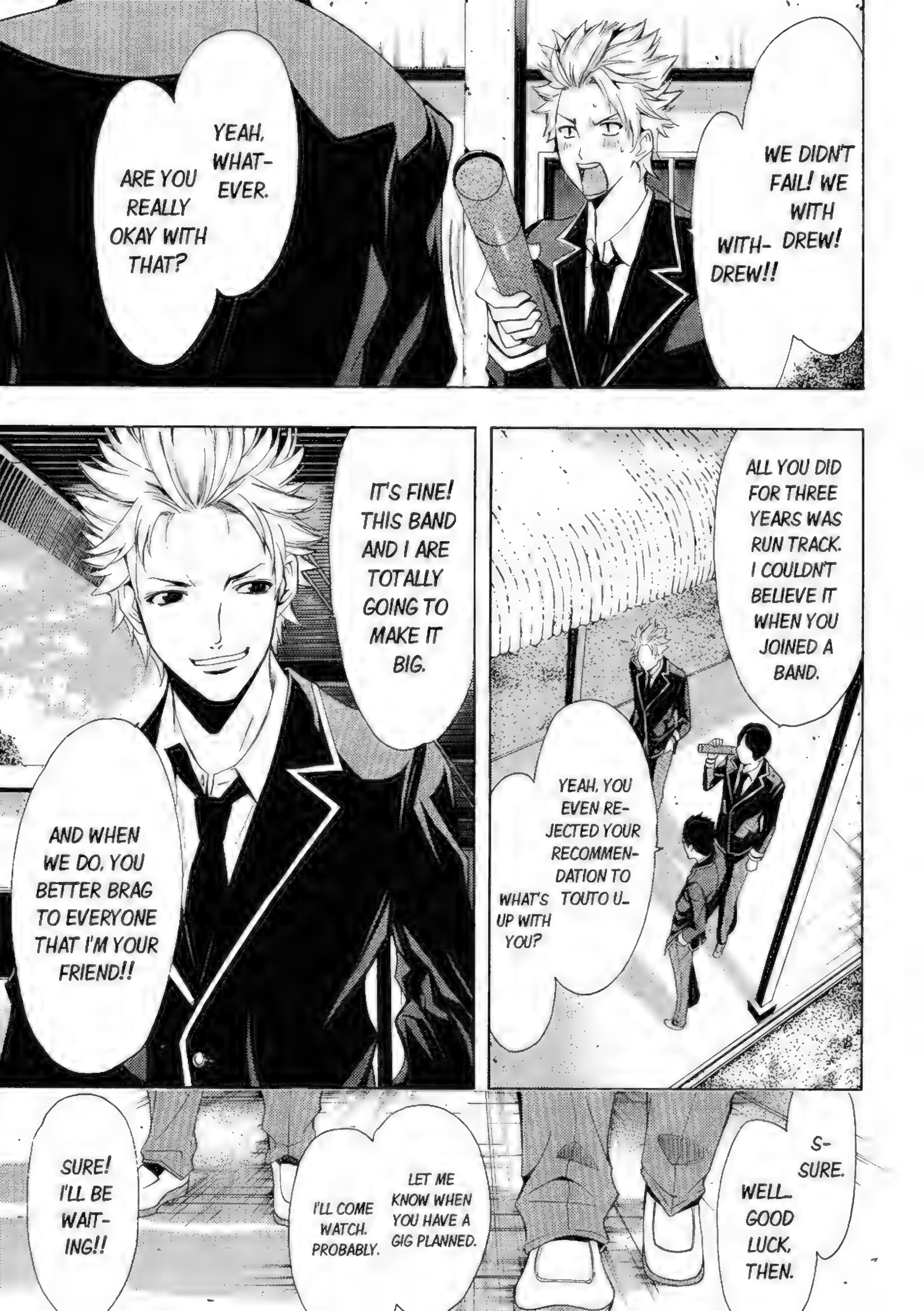

THE THING IS.. WELL..
NACHI-SENPAI IS GRADUATING NEXT WEEK, RIGHT?
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD ARRANGE A SURPRISE FOR HIM AFTER THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.
OH. WELL, I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY..
BUT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, YUU-SAN.
I'D BE GLAD TO HELP OUT WITH THAT.
SO, HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT WHAT TO DO?
YEAH-- I HAVE GIVEN IT SOME THOUGHT..
AND, WELL, IF YOU GUYS AREN'T UP TO IT, I DON'T MIND DOING IT ON MY OWN..
FIDGET クネ
FIDGET クネ
JUST TELL US WHAT IT IS.
....
OKAY. THEN..

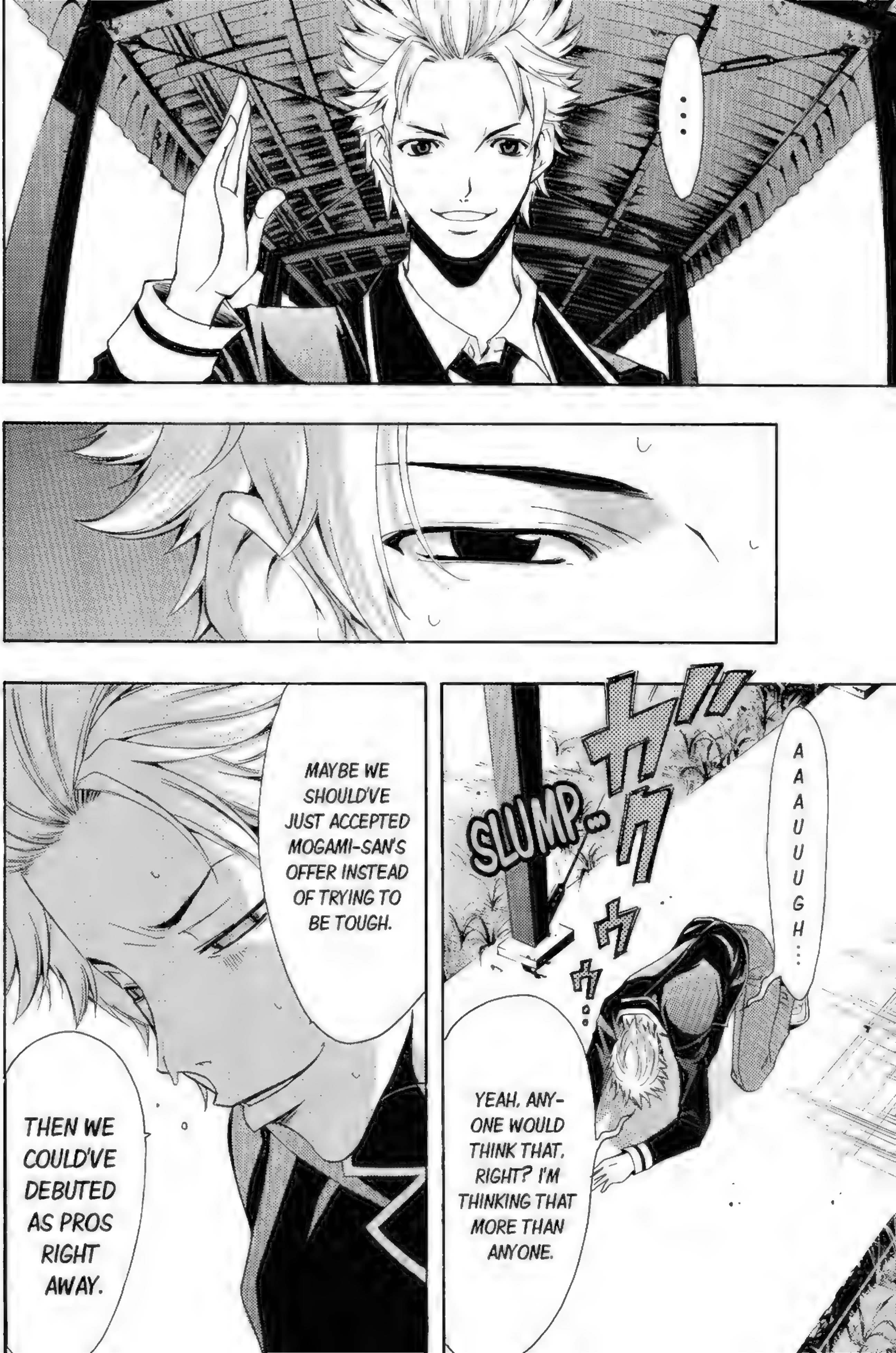
# 58 GRADUATION.

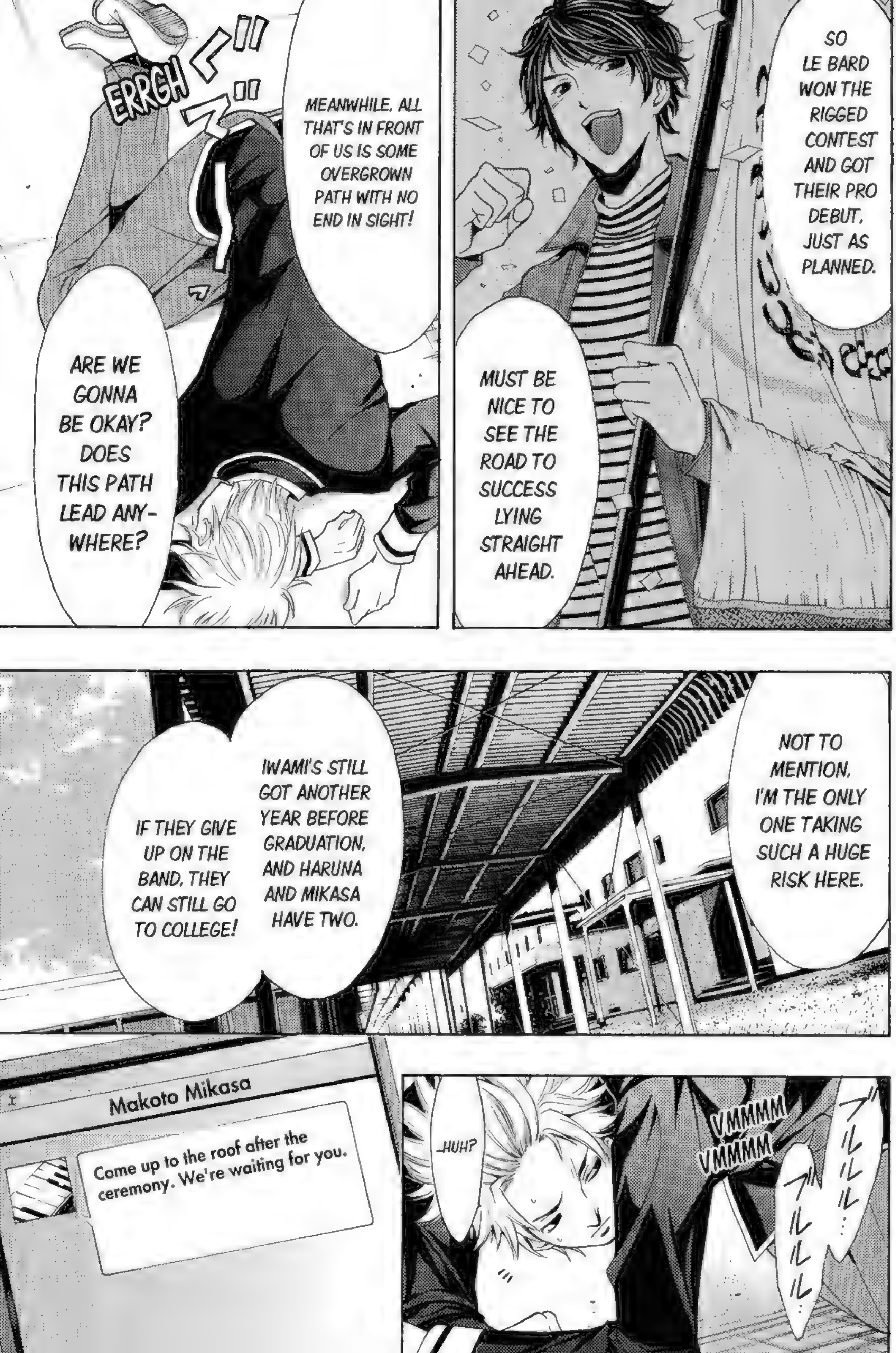

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU ON GRADUATING.
AS OF TODAY, YOU'LL ALL LEAVE THIS SCHOOL AND MOVE FORWARD.
卒業
私立青羽高
AOBA PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY
BUT IN FACT, YOU STAND TODAY AT YOUR LIFE'S TRUE STARTING LINE.
WHATEVER THE PATH YOU'VE CHOSEN, BE IT COLLEGE OR THE WORK FORCE, DO YOUR UTMOST TO...

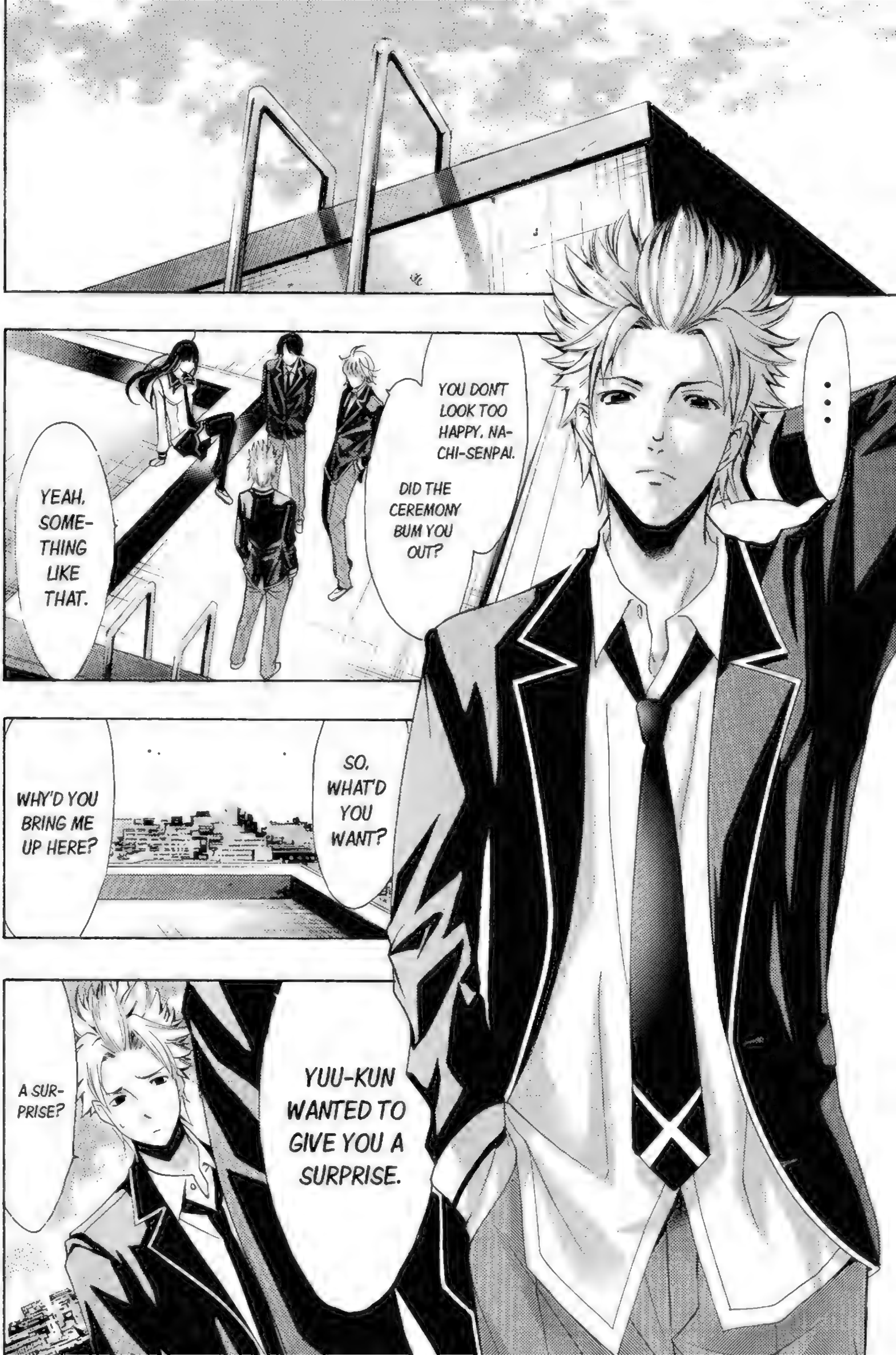

I'M FINALLY GRADUATING...
ALL I REMEMBER OF IT IS RUNNING TRACK FOR THREE YEARS.
I WAS INSPIRED BY YAMATO AKITSUKI TO GET INTO TRACK.
WHEN I FOUND OUT HIS DAUGHTER HAD ENROLLED HERE, MY HEART PRACTICALLY DANCED.
I NEVER DREAMED...
...HIS DAUGHTER WOULD DRAG ME INTO JOINING A BAND.
AND THEN SHE TOOK OFF TO SOMEPLACE MUCH TOO FAR AWAY...
SERIOUSLY, HOW SELFISH CAN YOU BE?

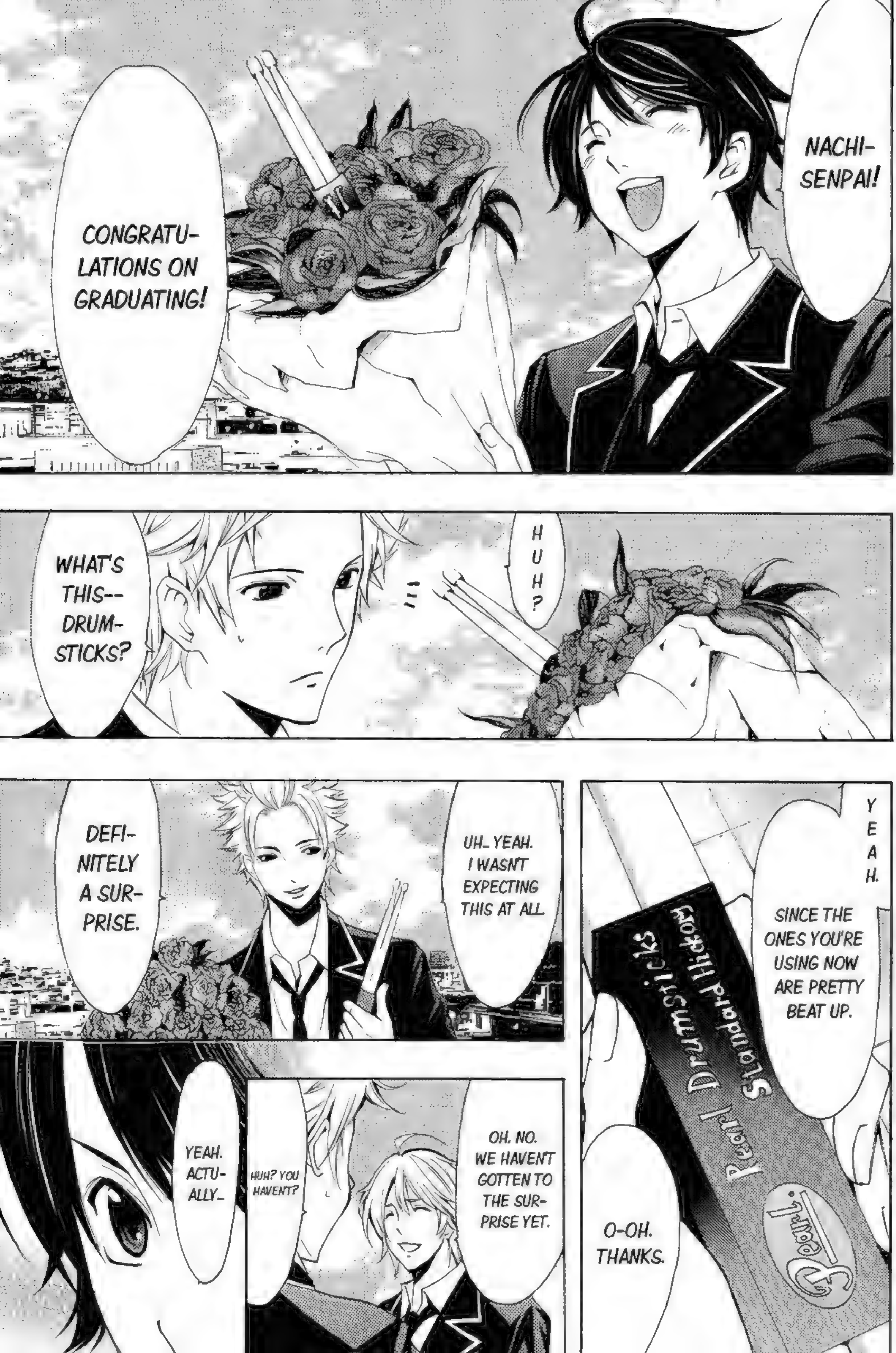

I AM NOT CRYING!!
LIAR!
HEY. WHY DONT WE ALL GO OUT FOR KARAOKE?
HEY. NACHI, WE'RE GOING OUT TO EAT. WANNA COME?
HM?
..NAH.
I'LL PASS.
YO, NACHI, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO AFTER TODAY, ANYWAY?
HUH?
YOU FAILED THE SECOND SCREENING AT LIGHTNING REBELLION, RIGHT?

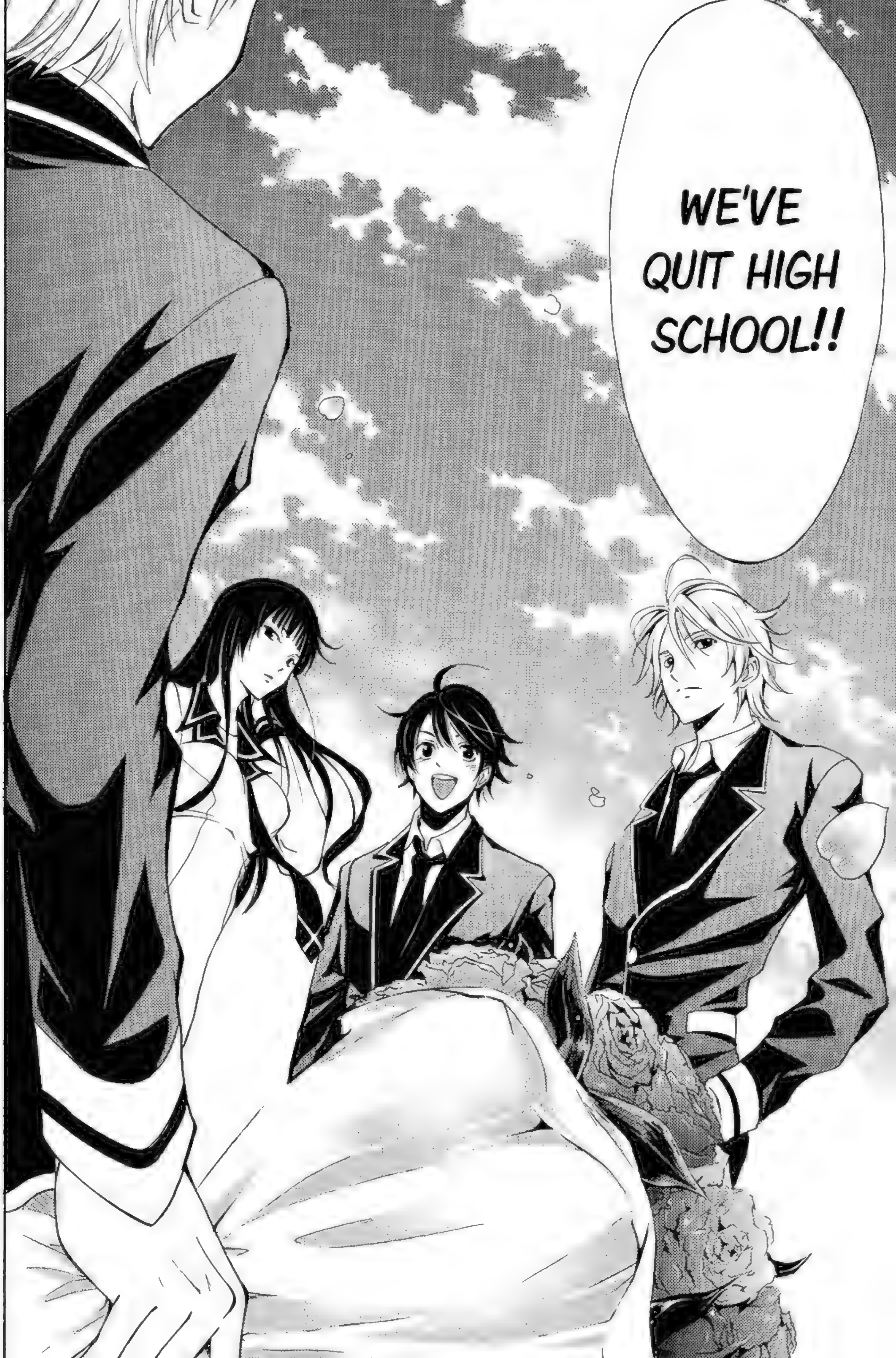

WE DIDN'T FAIL! WE WITHDREW!
WITHDREW!!
YEAH, WHATEVER.
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?
ALL YOU DID FOR THREE YEARS WAS RUN TRACK. I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN YOU JOINED A BAND.
YEAH, YOU EVEN REJECTED YOUR RECOMMENDATION TO TOUTO U–
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
IT'S FINE! THIS BAND AND I ARE TOTALLY GOING TO MAKE IT BIG.
AND WHEN WE DO, YOU BETTER BRAG TO EVERYONE THAT I'M YOUR FRIEND!!
S-SURE.
WELL... GOOD LUCK, THEN.
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE A GIG PLANNED.
I'LL COME WATCH. PROBABLY.
SURE! I'LL BE WAITING!!

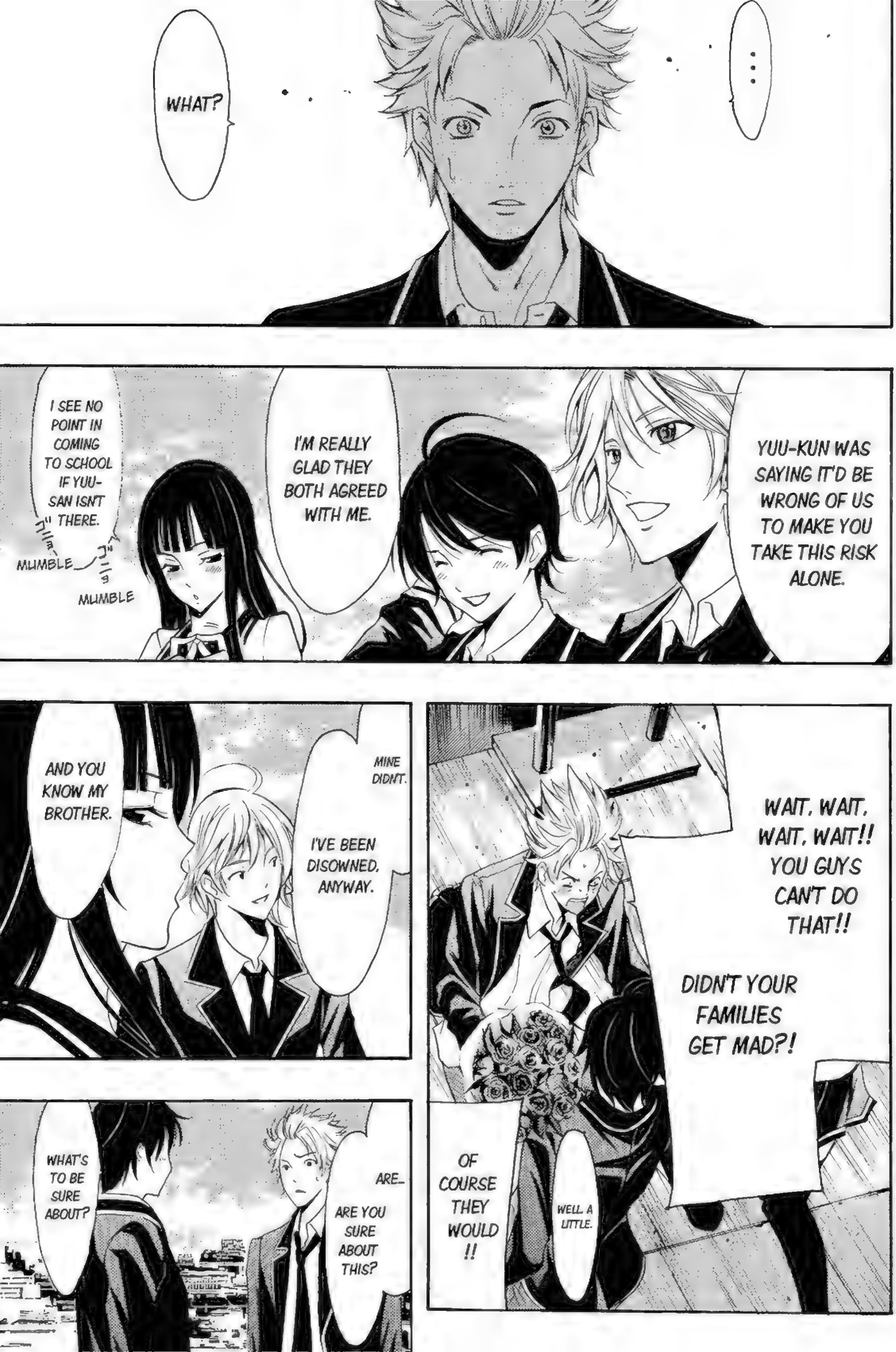

...
AAAUUUGH...
SLUMP..
ガクゥゥ..
YEAH, ANYONE WOULD THINK THAT, RIGHT? I'M THINKING THAT MORE THAN ANYONE.
MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE JUST ACCEPTED MOGAMI-SAN'S OFFER INSTEAD OF TRYING TO BE TOUGH.
THEN WE COULD'VE DEBUTED AS PROS RIGHT AWAY.

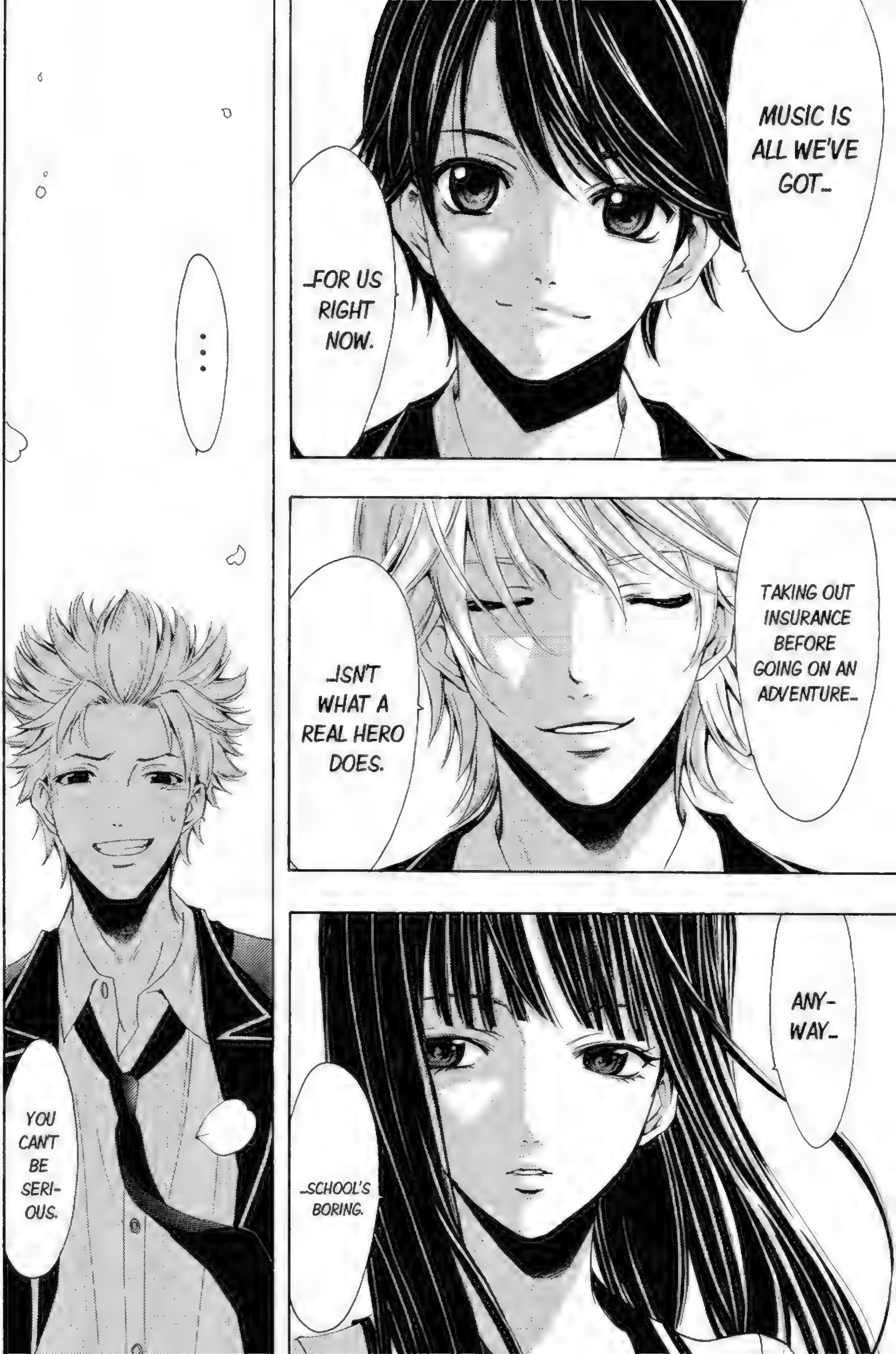

SO LE BARD WON THE RIGGED CONTEST AND GOT THEIR PRO DEBUT, JUST AS PLANNED.
MUST BE NICE TO SEE THE ROAD TO SUCCESS LYING STRAIGHT AHEAD.
MEANWHILE, ALL THAT'S IN FRONT OF US IS SOME OVERGROWN PATH WITH NO END IN SIGHT!
ERRGH
ARE WE GONNA BE OKAY? DOES THIS PATH LEAD ANYWHERE?
NOT TO MENTION, I'M THE ONLY ONE TAKING SUCH A HUGE RISK HERE.
IWAMI'S STILL GOT ANOTHER YEAR BEFORE GRADUATION, AND HARUNA AND MIKASA HAVE TWO.
IF THEY GIVE UP ON THE BAND, THEY CAN STILL GO TO COLLEGE!
VMMMM VMMMM
ブルルル…
ブルルル…
...HUH?
Makoto Mikasa
Come up to the roof after the ceremony. We're waiting for you.

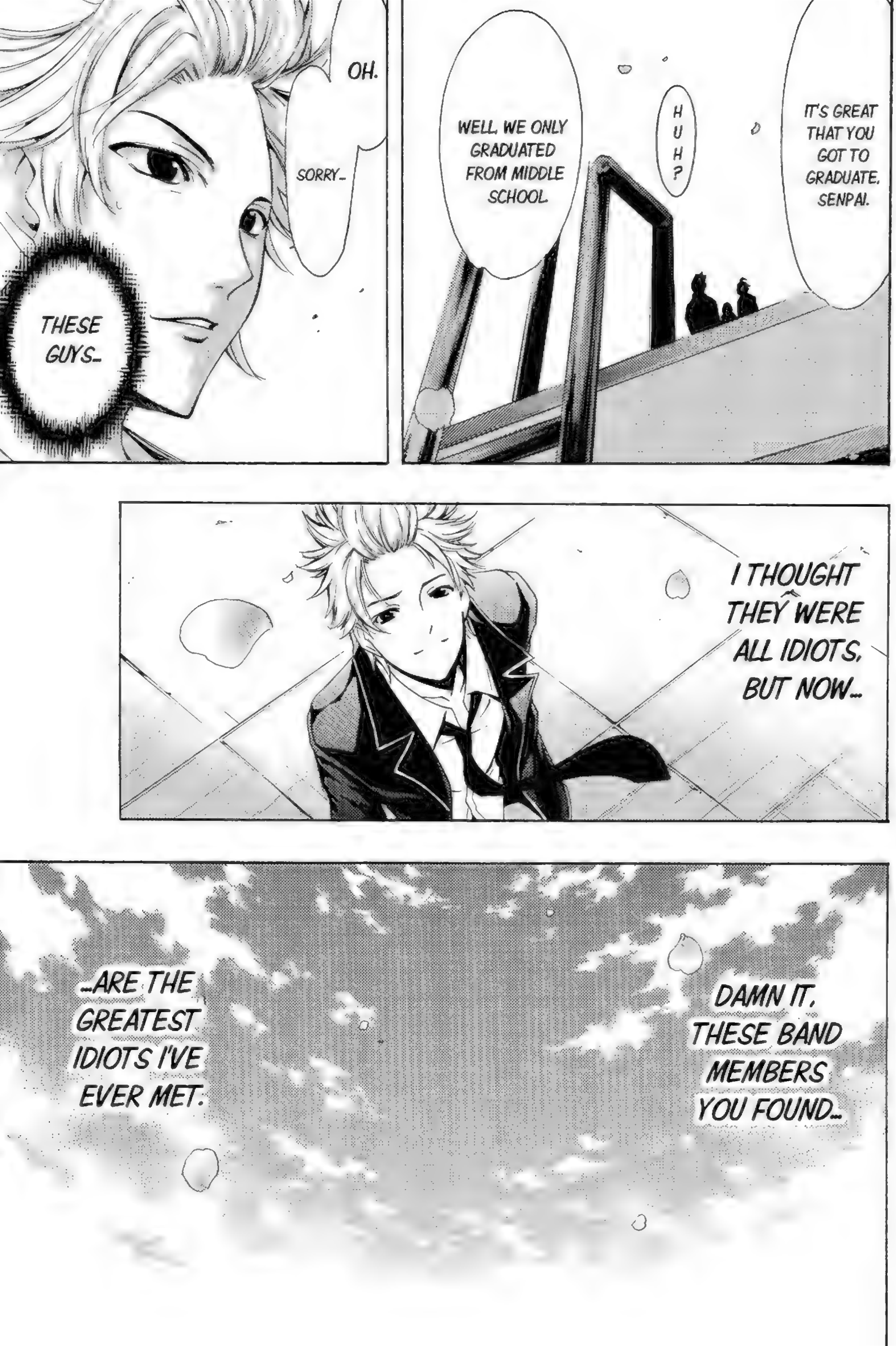

. . .
YOU DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY, NA-CHI-SENPAI.
DID THE CEREMONY BUM YOU OUT?
YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
SO, WHAT'D YOU WANT?
WHY'D YOU BRING ME UP HERE?
YUU-KUN WANTED TO GIVE YOU A SURPRISE.
A SURPRISE?

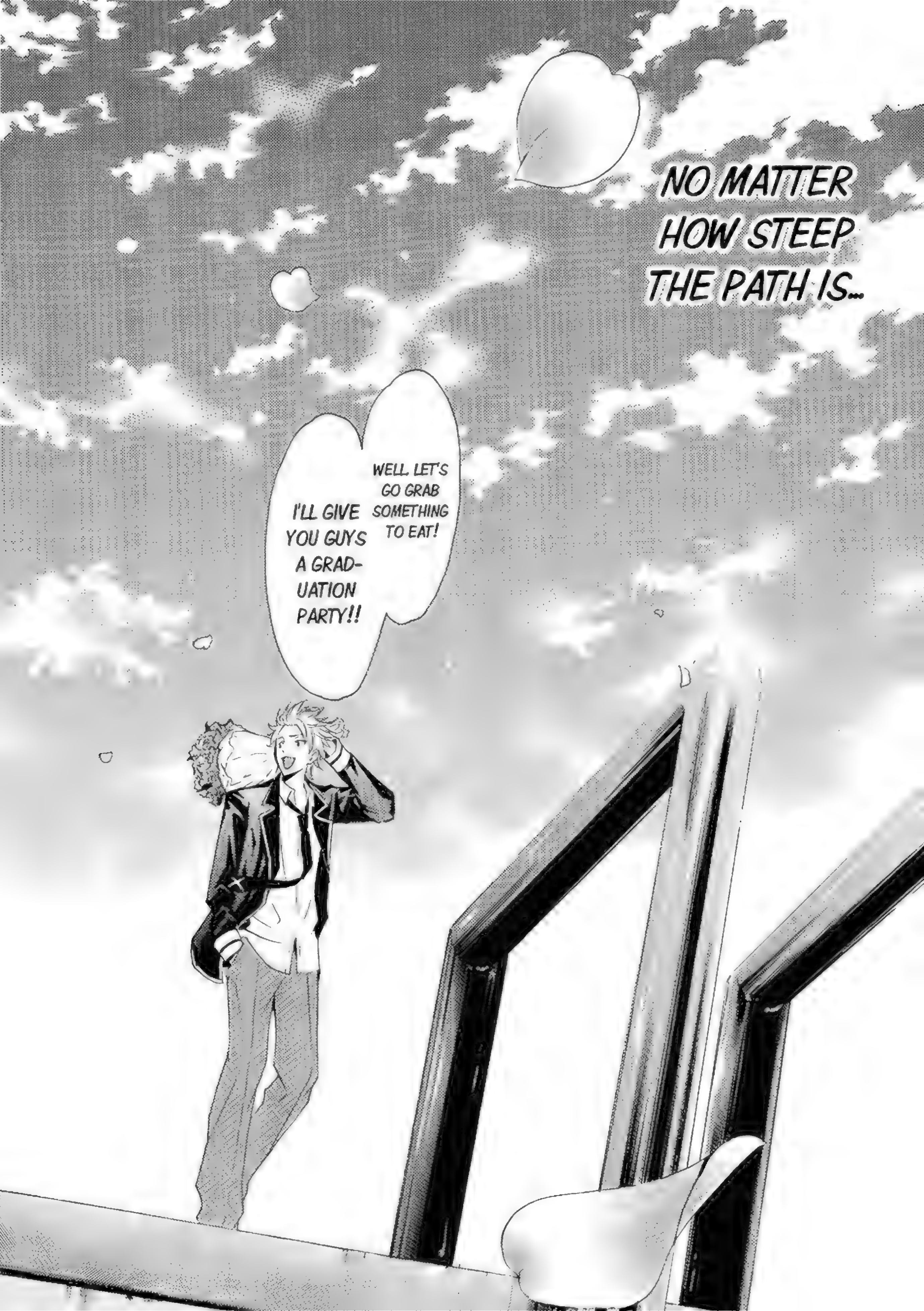

NACHI-SENPAI!
CONGRATULATIONS ON GRADUATING!
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS--DRUMSTICKS?
YEAH.
SINCE THE ONES YOU'RE USING NOW ARE PRETTY BEAT UP.
Pearl Drumsticks Standard Hickory
Pearl.
O-OH. THANKS.
UH... YEAH. I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS AT ALL.
DEFINITELY A SURPRISE.
OH. NO. WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO THE SURPRISE YET.
HUH? YOU HAVEN'T?
YEAH. ACTUALLY...

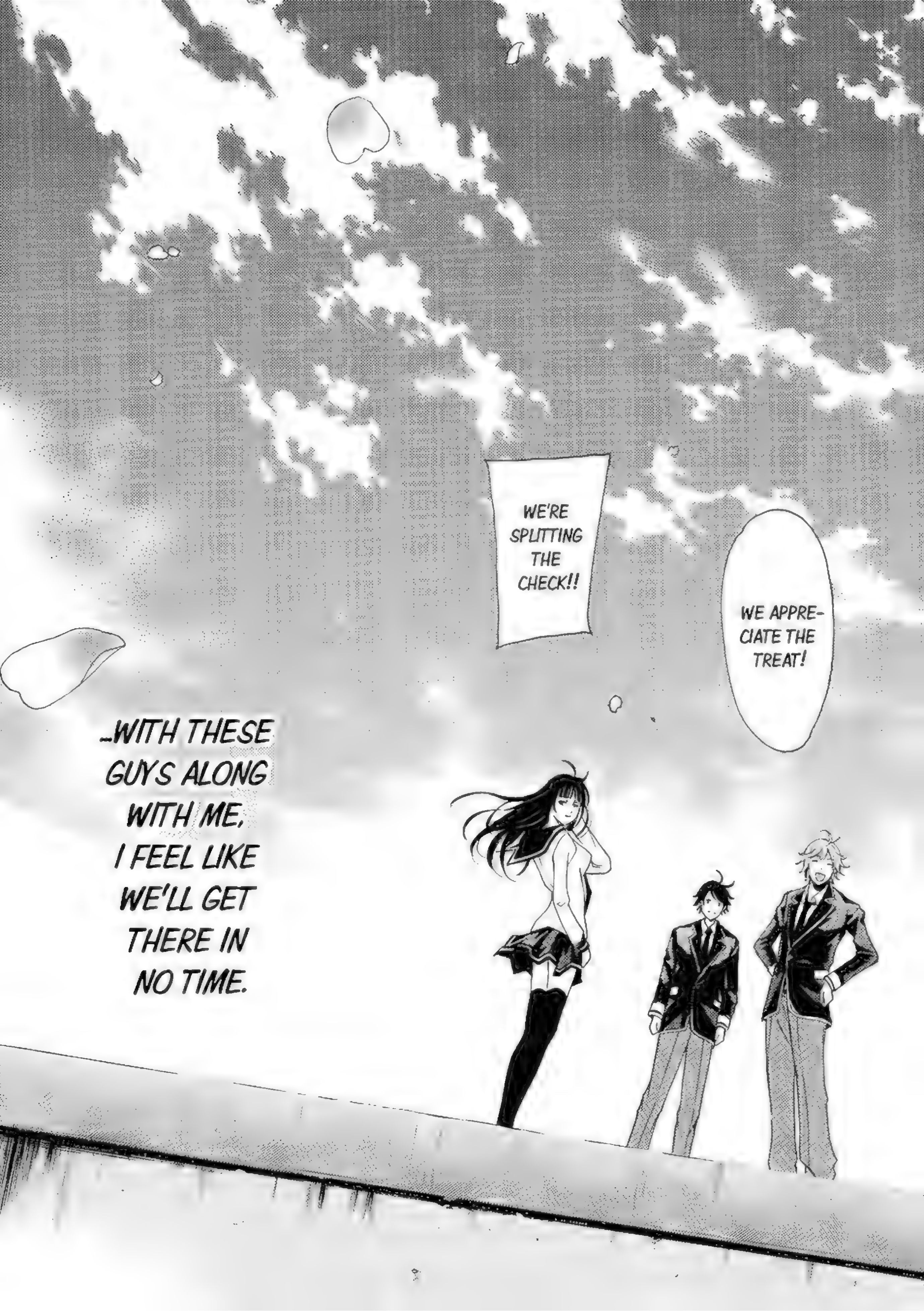

WE'VE QUIT HIGH SCHOOL!!


…
WHAT?
YUU-KUN WAS SAYING IT'D BE WRONG OF US TO MAKE YOU TAKE THIS RISK ALONE.
I'M REALLY GLAD THEY BOTH AGREED WITH ME.
I SEE NO POINT IN COMING TO SCHOOL IF YUU-SAN ISNT THERE.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!! YOU GUYS CAN'T DO THAT!!
DIDN'T YOUR FAMILIES GET MAD?!
OF COURSE THEY WOULD !!
WELL, A LITTLE.
MINE DIDNT.
I'VE BEEN DISOWNED, ANYWAY.
AND YOU KNOW MY BROTHER.
ARE...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
WHAT'S TO BE SURE ABOUT?

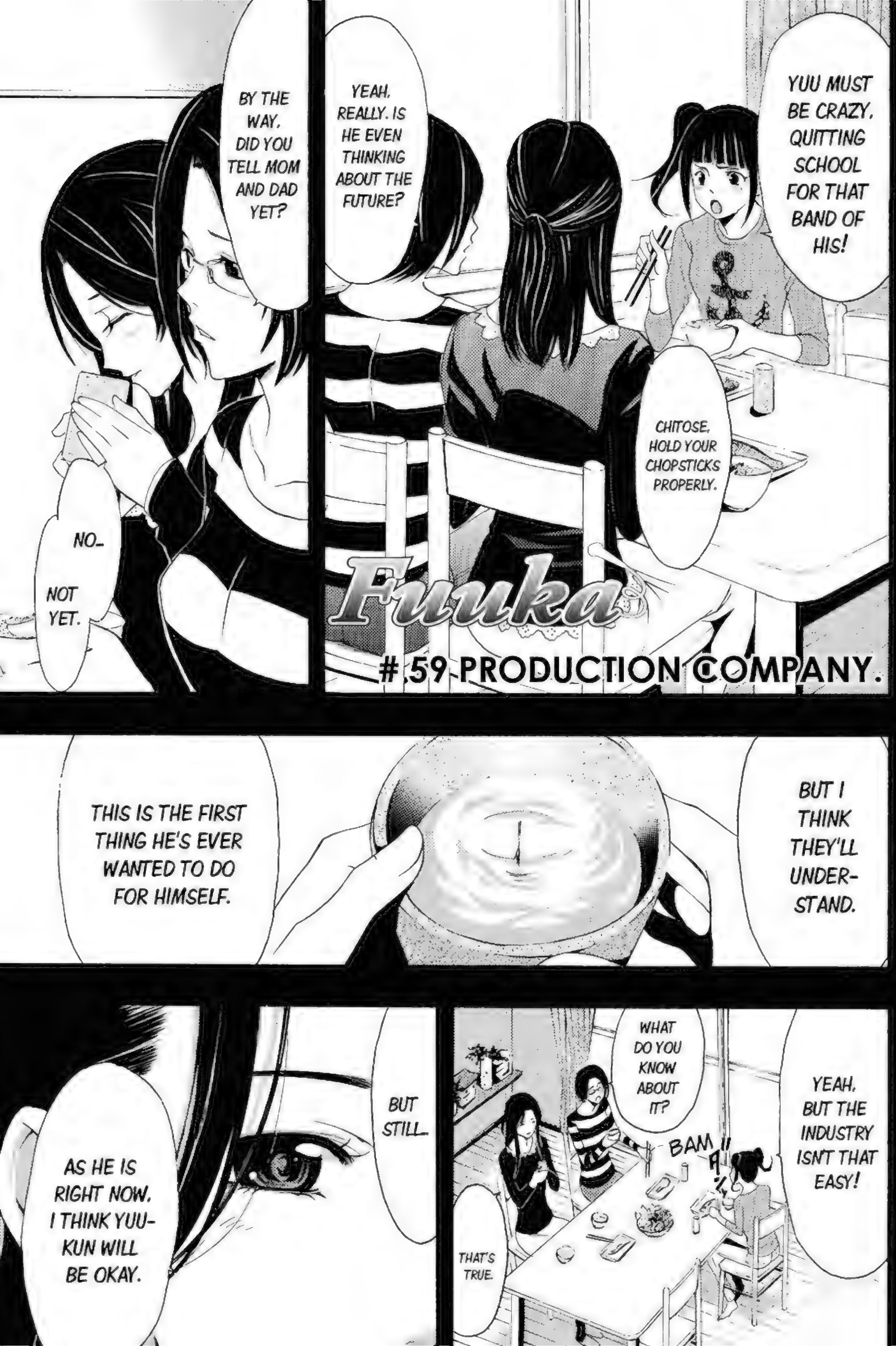

MUSIC IS ALL WE'VE GOT...
...FOR US RIGHT NOW.
TAKING OUT INSURANCE BEFORE GOING ON AN ADVENTURE...
...ISN'T WHAT A REAL HERO DOES.
ANY-WAY...
...SCHOOL'S BORING.
...
YOU CAN'T BE SERI-OUS.

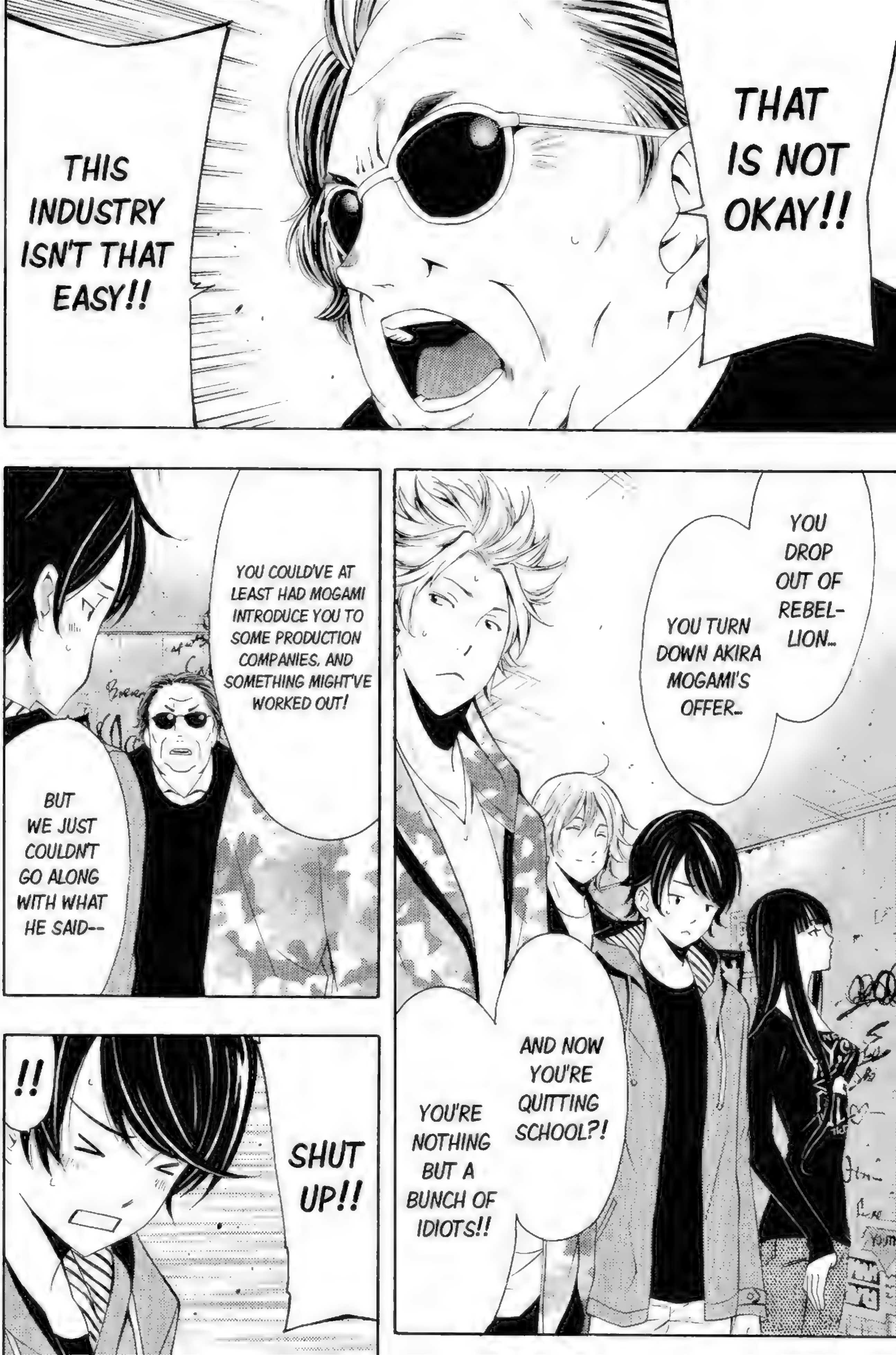

IT'S GREAT THAT YOU GOT TO GRADUATE, SENPAI.
HUH?
WELL, WE ONLY GRADUATED FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.
OH.
SORRY...
THESE GUYS...
I THOUGHT THEY WERE ALL IDIOTS, BUT NOW...
DAMN IT, THESE BAND MEMBERS YOU FOUND...
...ARE THE GREATEST IDIOTS I'VE EVER MET.

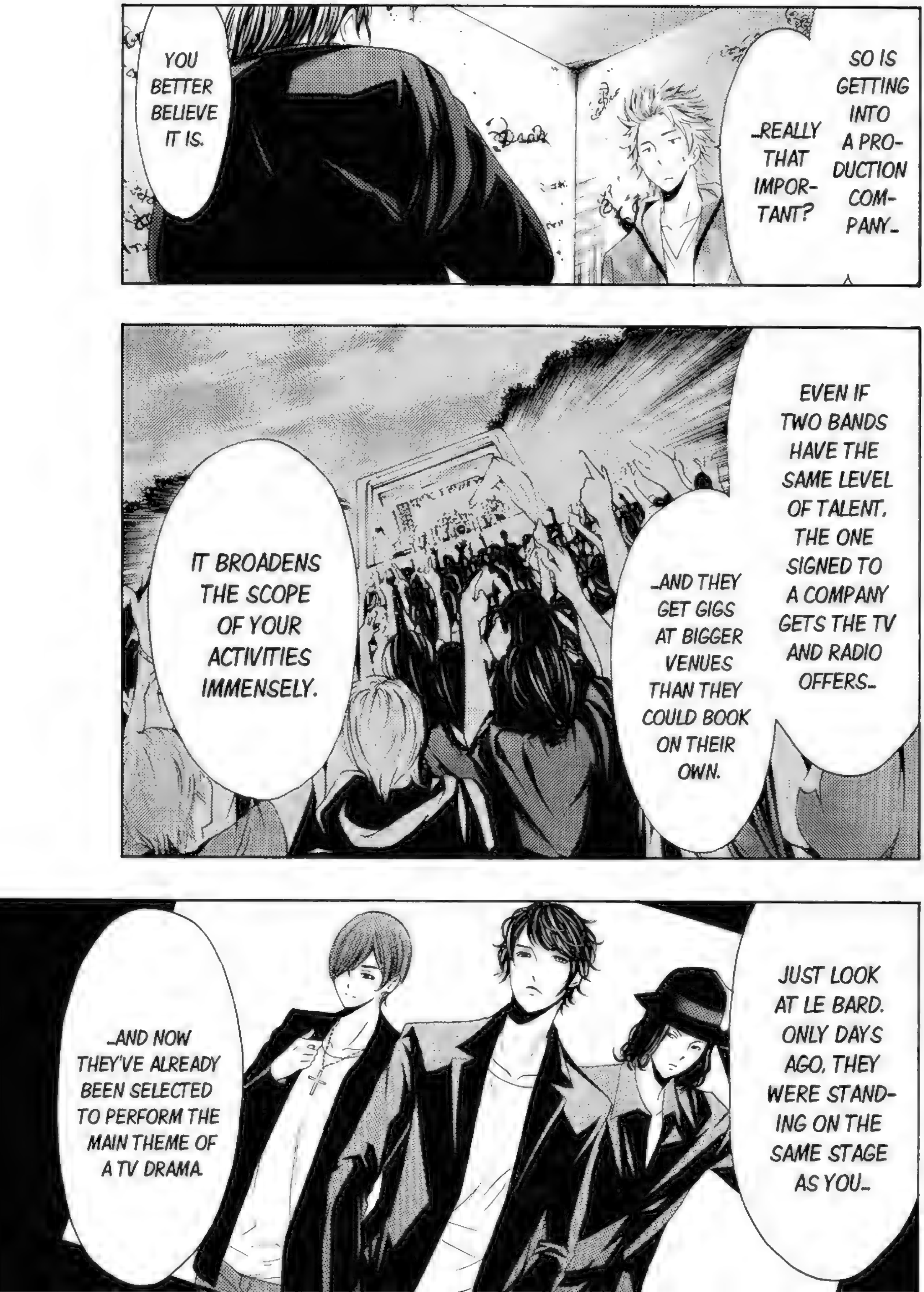

NO MATTER HOW STEEP THE PATH IS...
WELL, LET'S GO GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT!
I'LL GIVE YOU GUYS A GRADUATION PARTY!!

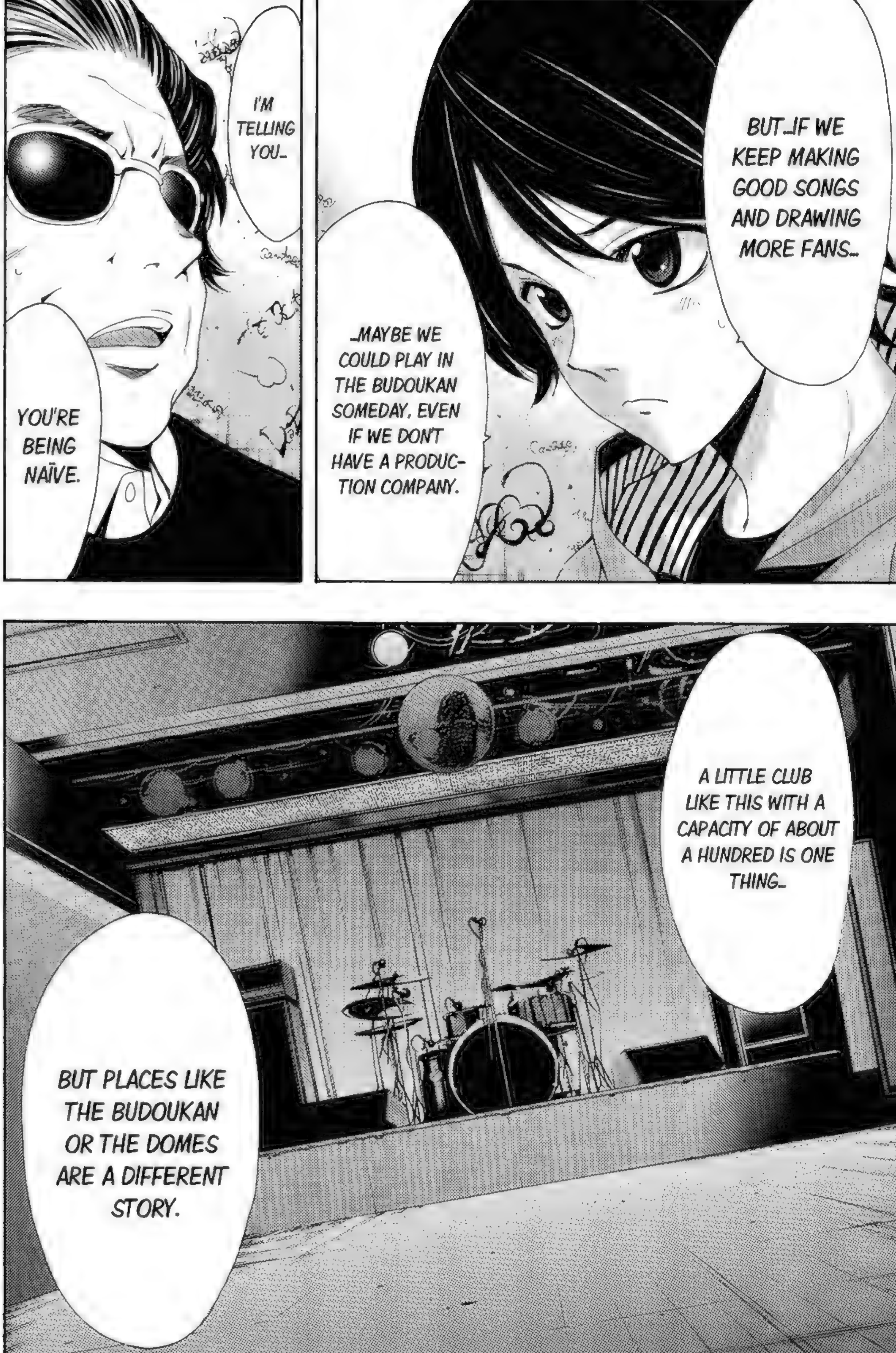

WE APPRECIATE THE TREAT!
WE'RE SPLITTING THE CHECK!!
...WITH THESE GUYS ALONG WITH ME, I FEEL LIKE WE'LL GET THERE IN NO TIME.

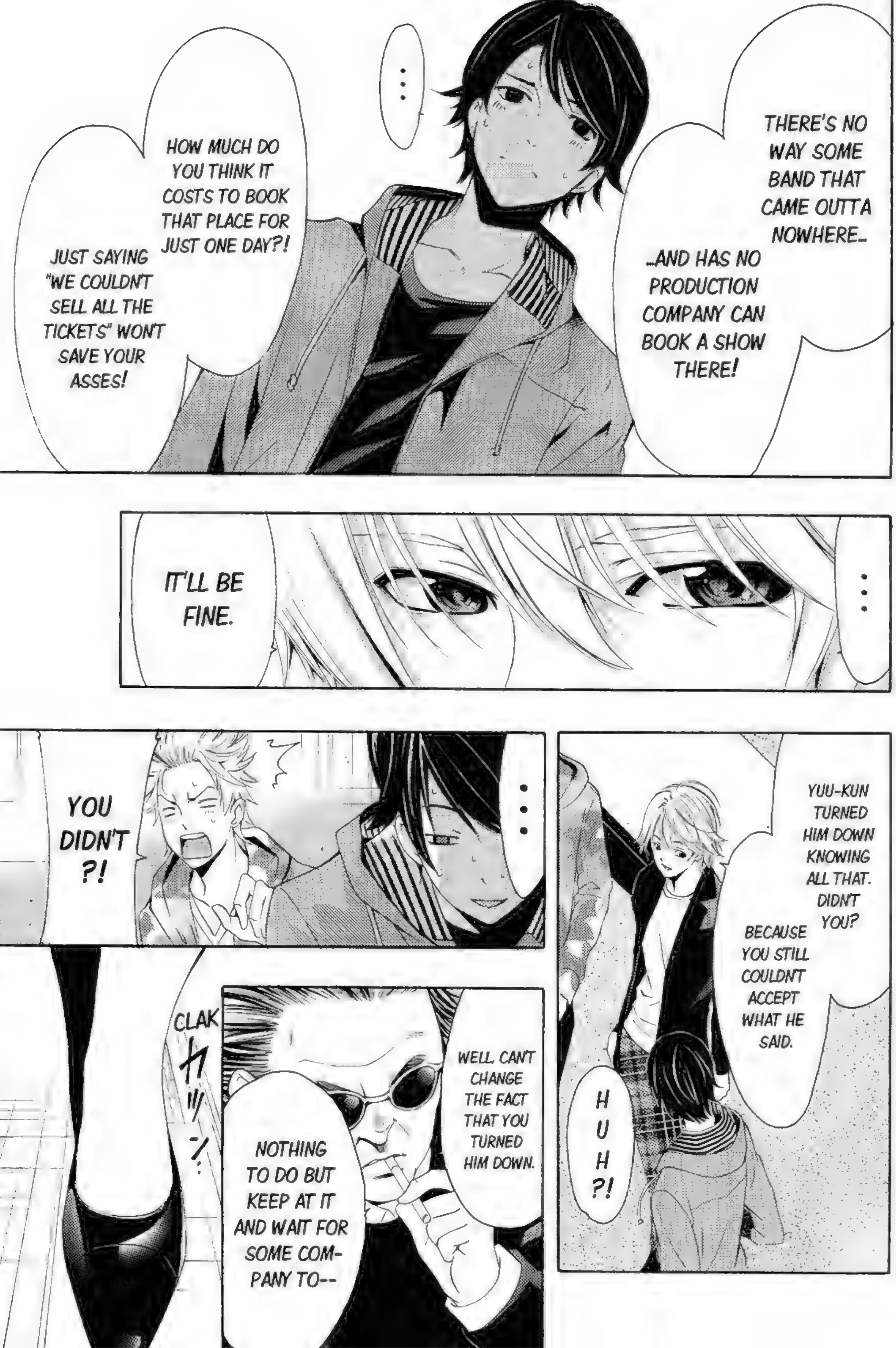
FUUKA

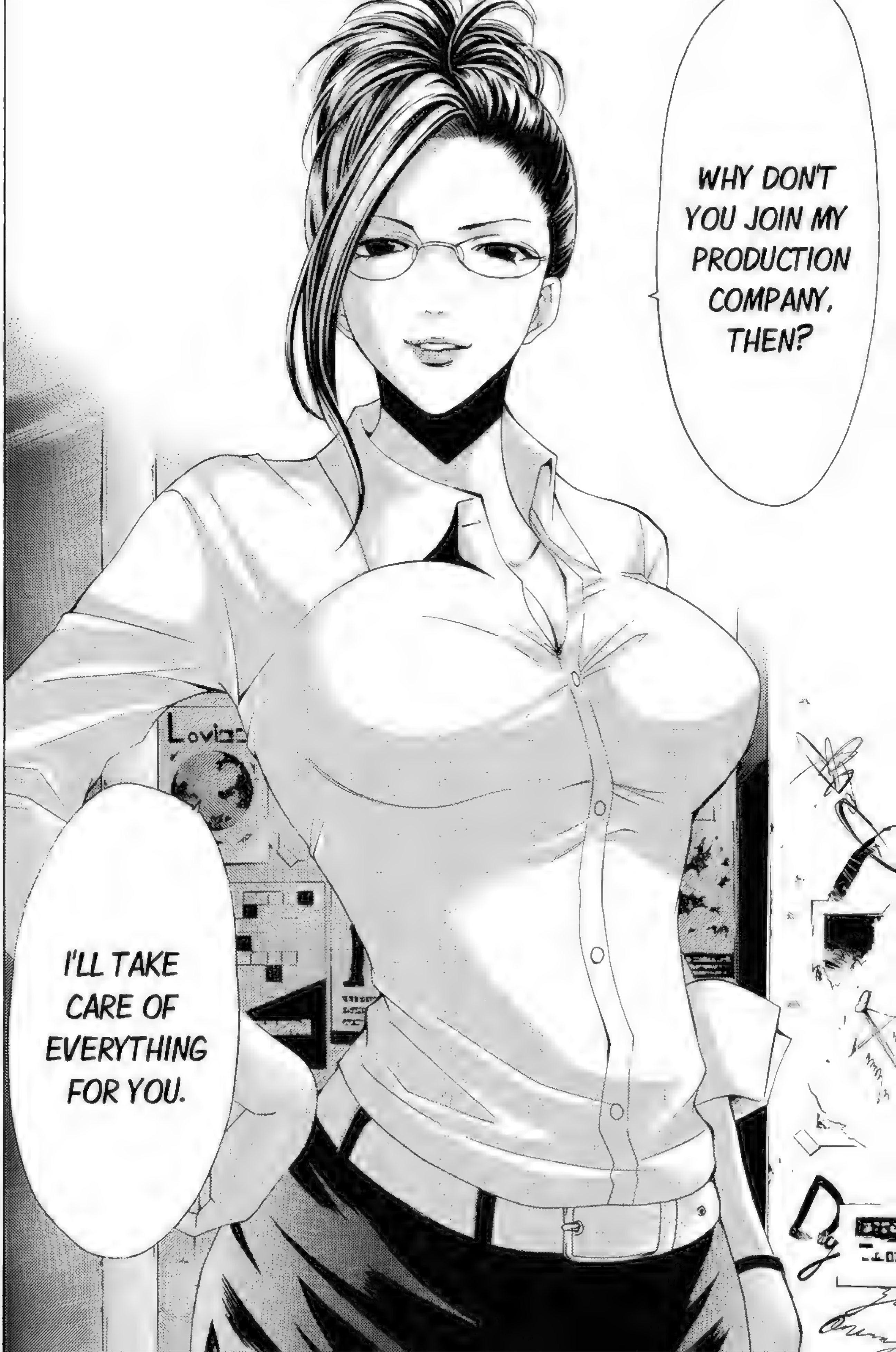

YUU MUST BE CRAZY, QUITTING SCHOOL FOR THAT BAND OF HIS!
CHITOSE, HOLD YOUR CHOPSTICKS PROPERLY.
YEAH, REALLY. IS HE EVEN THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE?
BY THE WAY, DID YOU TELL MOM AND DAD YET?
NO..
NOT YET.
Fuuka
#.59 PRODUCTION COMPANY.
BUT I THINK THEY'LL UNDERSTAND.
THIS IS THE FIRST THING HE'S EVER WANTED TO DO FOR HIMSELF.
YEAH, BUT THE INDUSTRY ISN'T THAT EASY!
BAM!!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT STILL.
AS HE IS RIGHT NOW, I THINK YUU-KUN WILL BE OKAY.

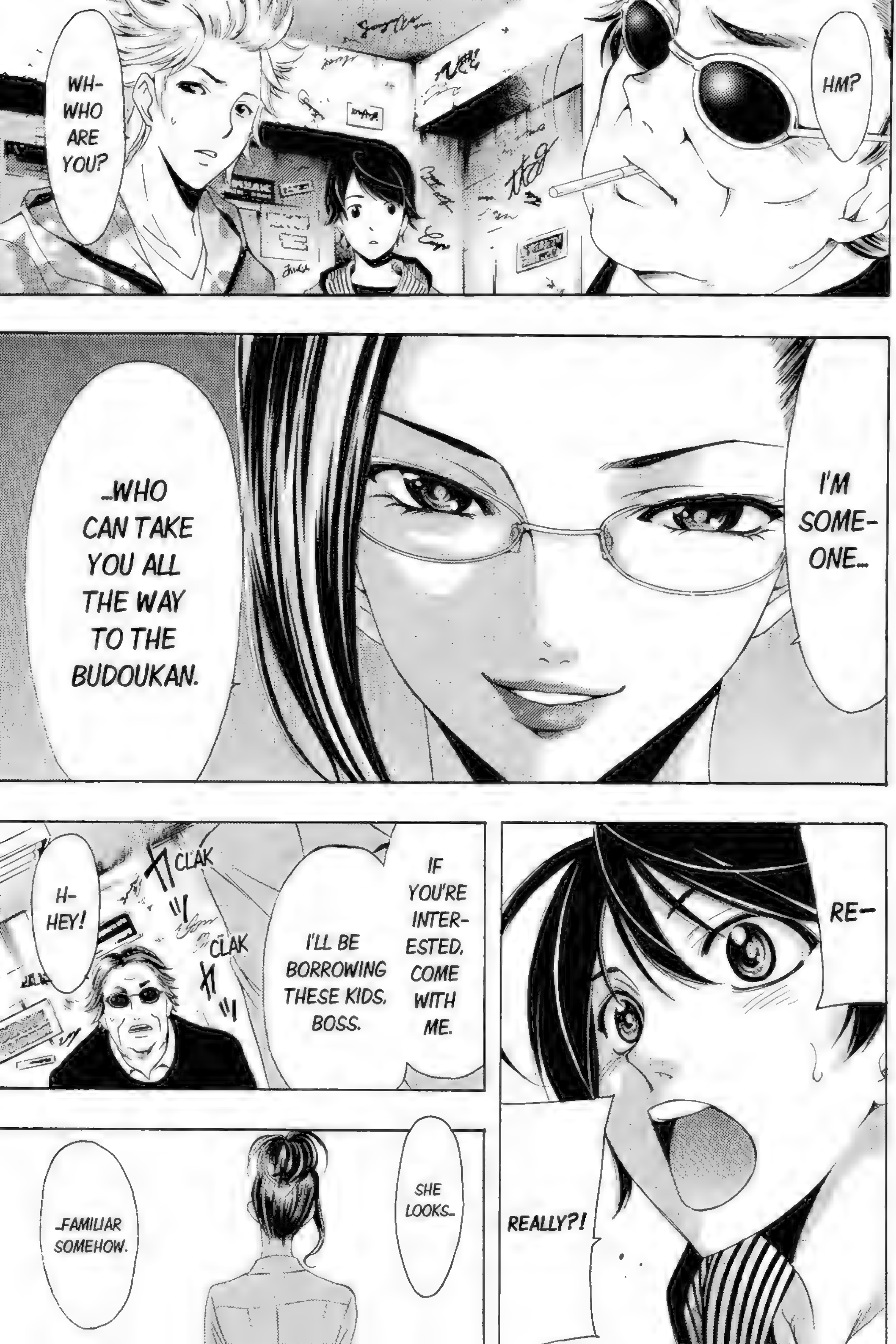

THAT IS NOT OKAY!!
THIS INDUSTRY ISN'T THAT EASY!!
YOU DROP OUT OF REBELLION...
YOU TURN DOWN AKIRA MOGAMI'S OFFER...
AND NOW YOU'RE QUITTING SCHOOL?!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF IDIOTS!!
YOU COULD'VE AT LEAST HAD MOGAMI INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME PRODUCTION COMPANIES, AND SOMETHING MIGHT'VE WORKED OUT!
BUT WE JUST COULDN'T GO ALONG WITH WHAT HE SAID--
!!
SHUT UP!!

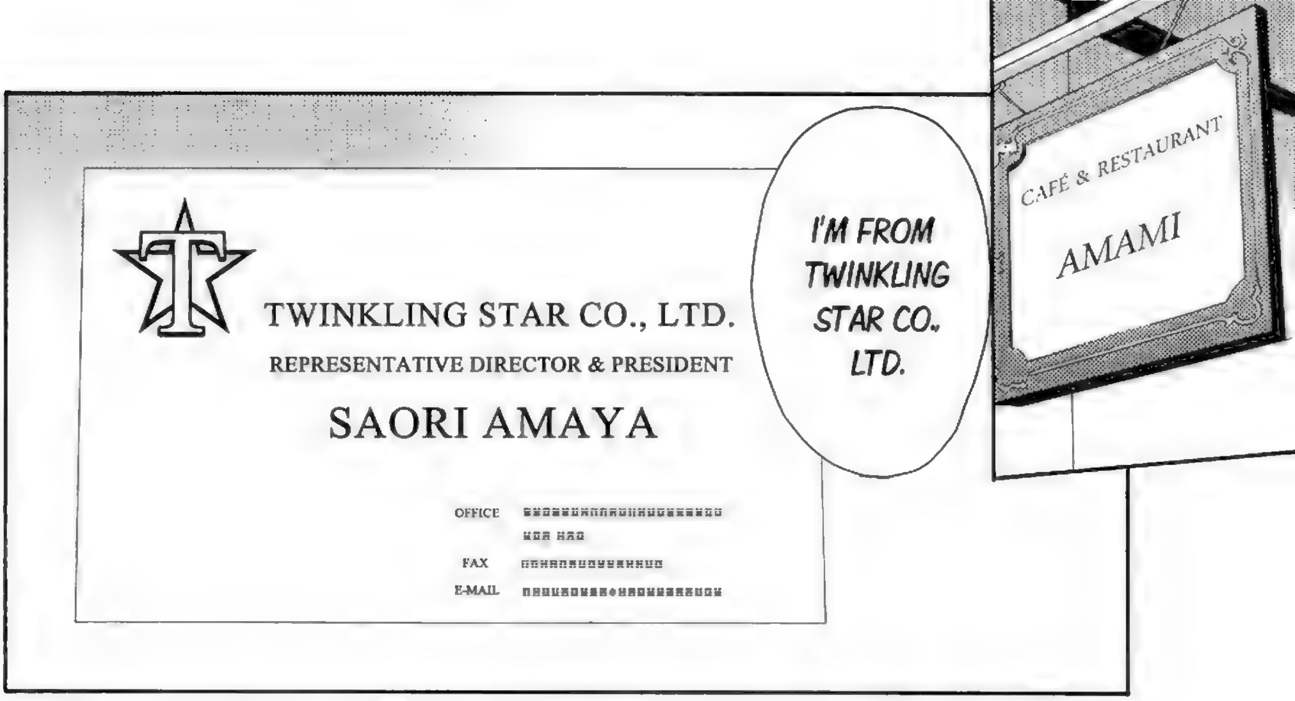

SO IS GETTING INTO A PRODUCTION COMPANY…
…REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT IS.
EVEN IF TWO BANDS HAVE THE SAME LEVEL OF TALENT, THE ONE SIGNED TO A COMPANY GETS THE TV AND RADIO OFFERS…
…AND THEY GET GIGS AT BIGGER VENUES THAN THEY COULD BOOK ON THEIR OWN.
IT BROADENS THE SCOPE OF YOUR ACTIVITIES IMMENSELY.
JUST LOOK AT LE BARD. ONLY DAYS AGO, THEY WERE STANDING ON THE SAME STAGE AS YOU…
…AND NOW THEY'VE ALREADY BEEN SELECTED TO PERFORM THE MAIN THEME OF A TV DRAMA.

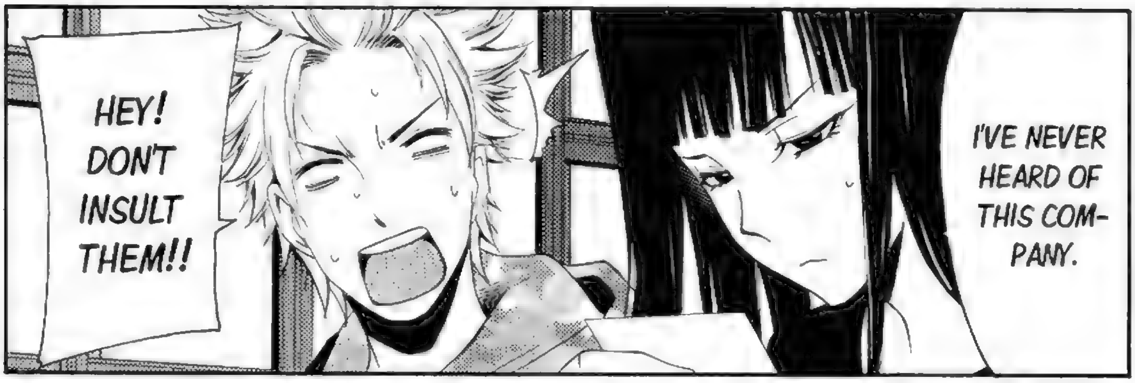

BUT...IF WE KEEP MAKING GOOD SONGS AND DRAWING MORE FANS...
...MAYBE WE COULD PLAY IN THE BUDOUKAN SOMEDAY, EVEN IF WE DON'T HAVE A PRODUCTION COMPANY.
I'M TELLING YOU...
YOU'RE BEING NAÏVE.
A LITTLE CLUB LIKE THIS WITH A CAPACITY OF ABOUT A HUNDRED IS ONE THING...
BUT PLACES LIKE THE BUDOUKAN OR THE DOMES ARE A DIFFERENT STORY.

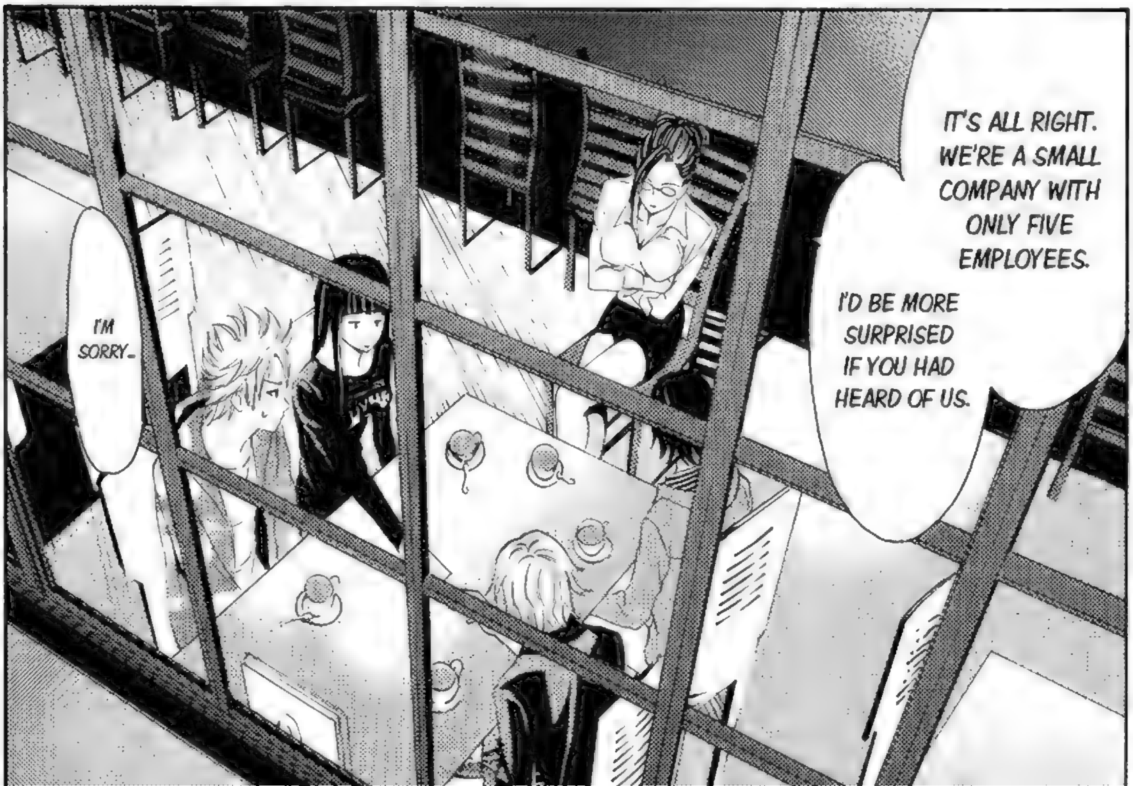

THERE'S NO WAY SOME BAND THAT CAME OUTTA NOWHERE..
..AND HAS NO PRODUCTION COMPANY CAN BOOK A SHOW THERE!
...
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT COSTS TO BOOK THAT PLACE FOR JUST ONE DAY?!
JUST SAYING "WE COULDN'T SELL ALL THE TICKETS" WON'T SAVE YOUR ASSES!
...
IT'LL BE FINE.
YUU-KUN TURNED HIM DOWN KNOWING ALL THAT. DIDN'T YOU?
BECAUSE YOU STILL COULDN'T ACCEPT WHAT HE SAID.
HUH?!
...
YOU DIDN'T?!
WELL, CAN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU TURNED HIM DOWN.
NOTHING TO DO BUT KEEP AT IT AND WAIT FOR SOME COMPANY TO--
CLAK
カッ

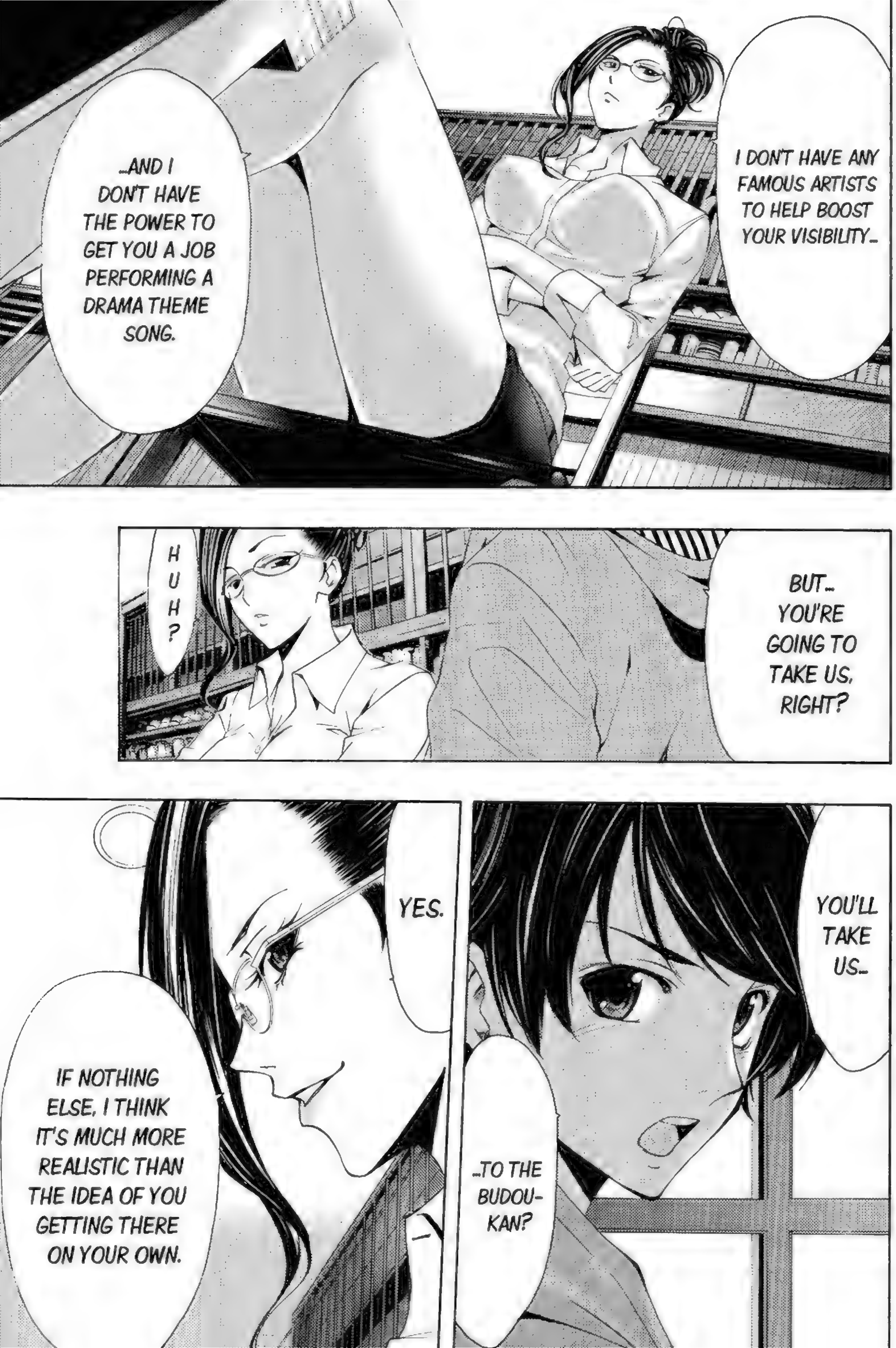

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN MY PRODUCTION COMPANY, THEN?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING FOR YOU.

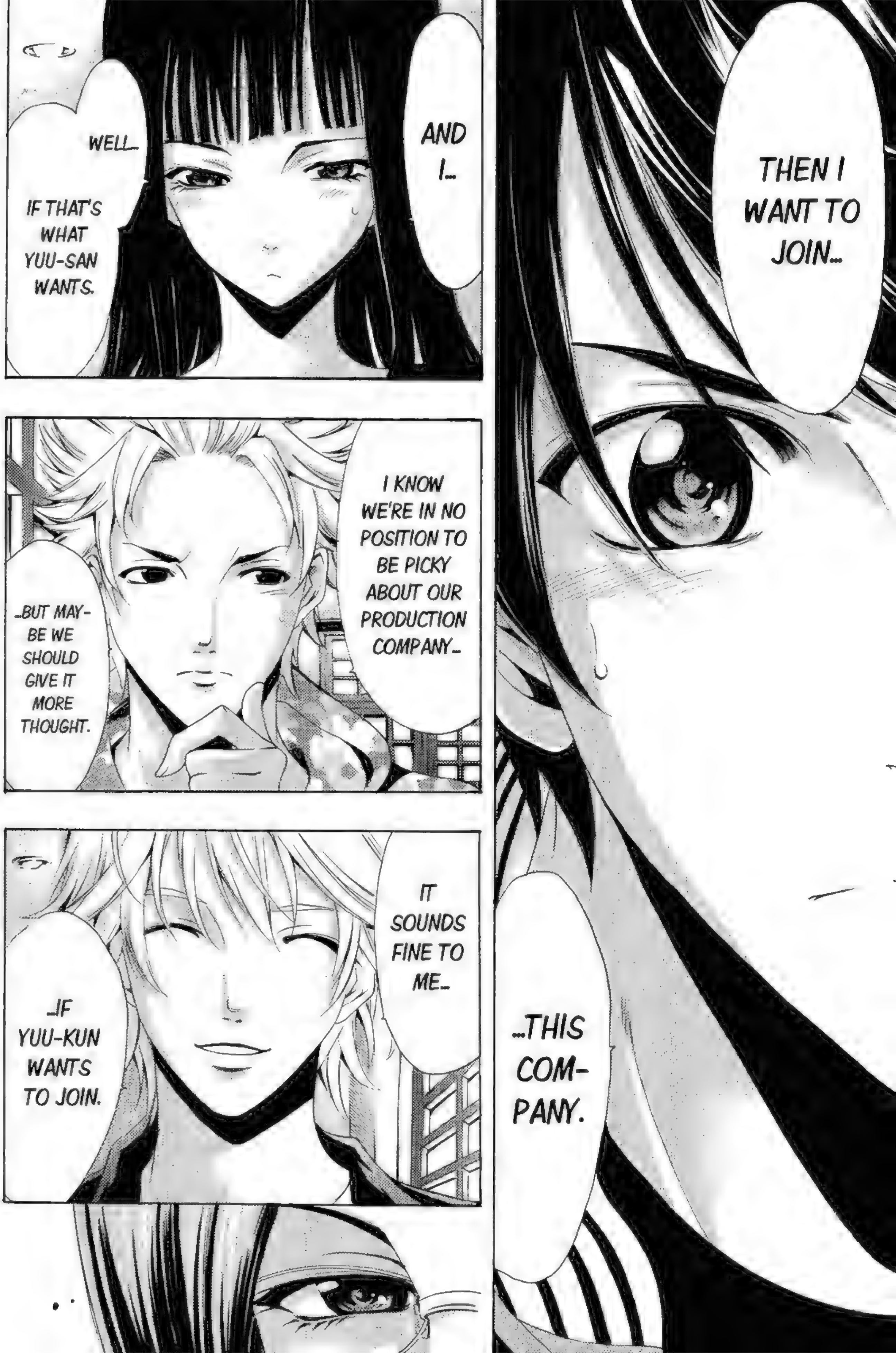

HM?
WH- WHO ARE YOU?
I'M SOMEONE...
...WHO CAN TAKE YOU ALL THE WAY TO THE BUDOUKAN.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, COME WITH ME.
I'LL BE BORROWING THESE KIDS, BOSS.
CLAK
CLAK
H- HEY!
RE-
REALLY?!
SHE LOOKS...
...FAMILIAR SOMEHOW.

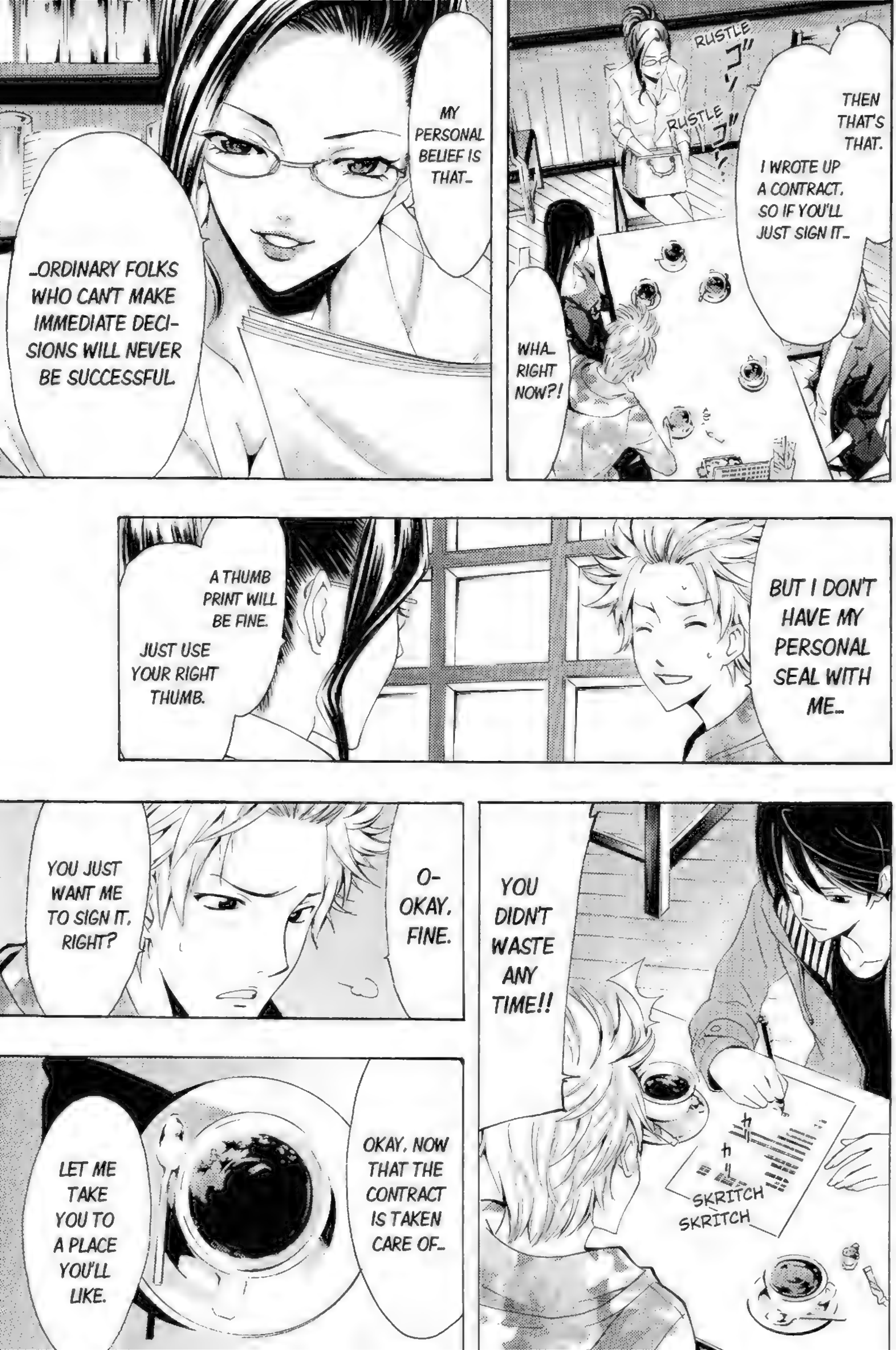

CAFÉ & RESTAURANT
AMAMI
I'M FROM TWINKLING STAR CO. LTD.
TWINKLING STAR CO., LTD.
REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT
SAORI AMAYA
OFFICE
FAX
E-MAIL

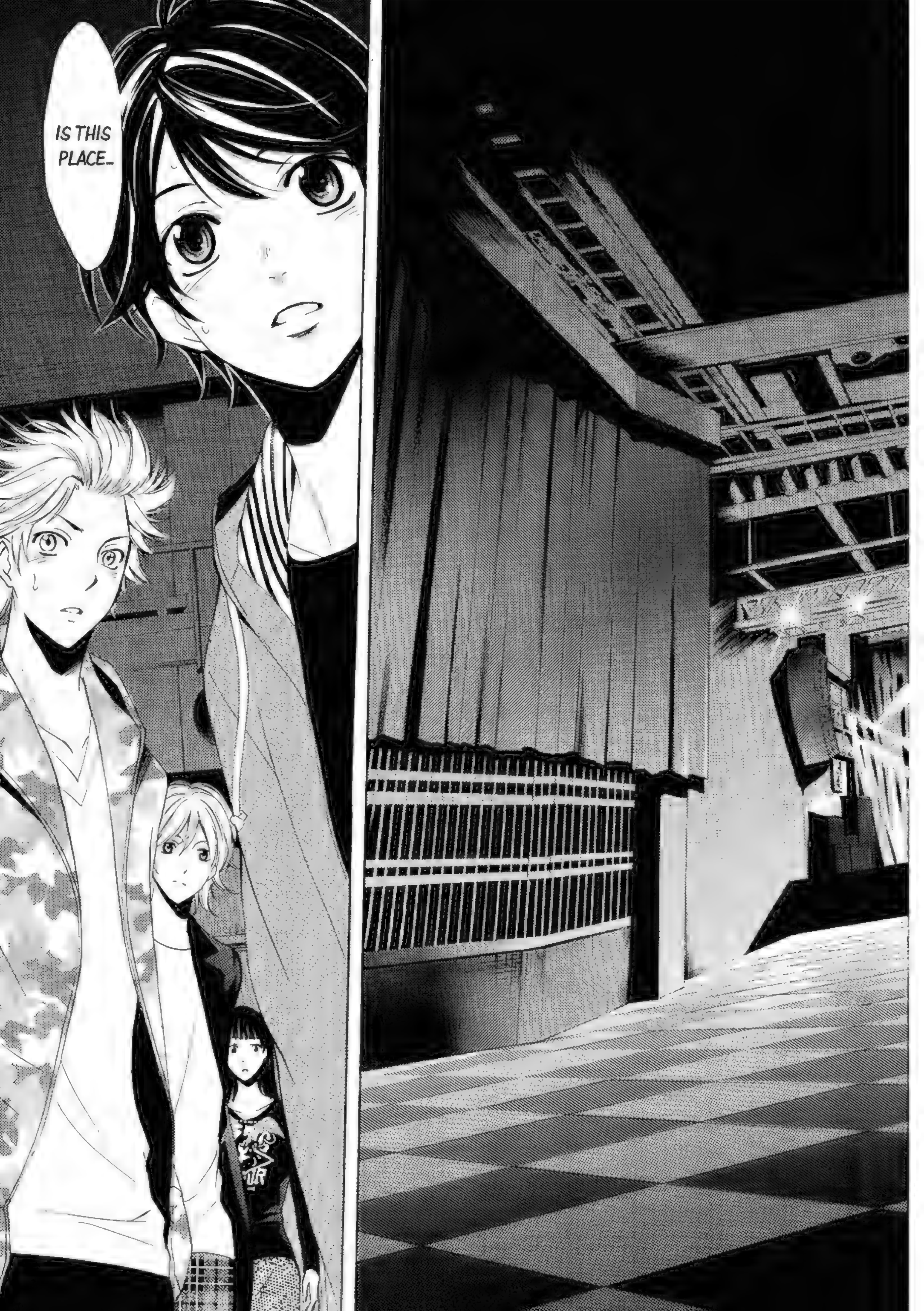

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS COMPANY.
HEY! DON'T INSULT THEM!!

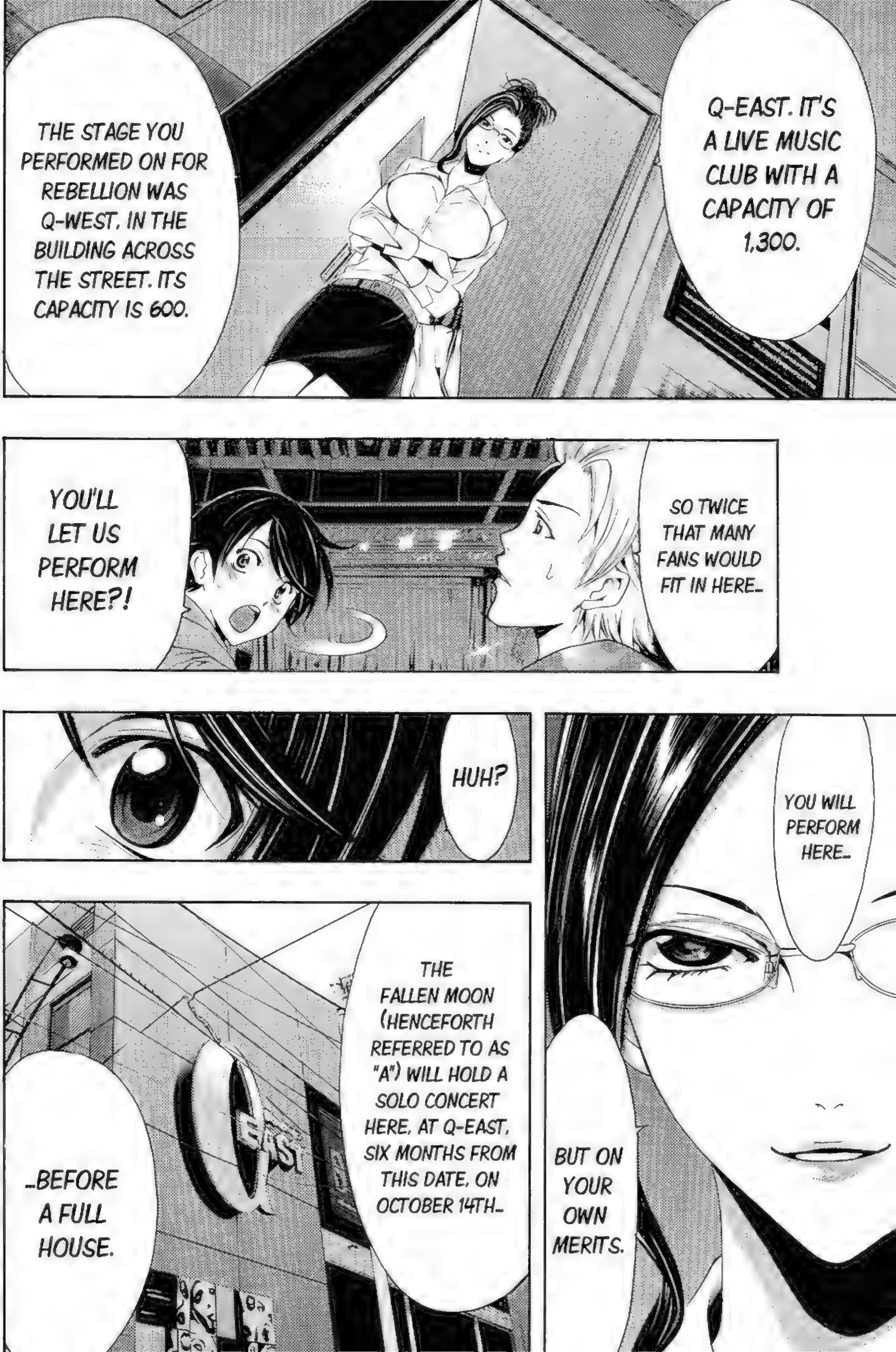

IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'RE A SMALL COMPANY WITH ONLY FIVE EMPLOYEES.
I'D BE MORE SURPRISED IF YOU HAD HEARD OF US.
I'M SORRY...

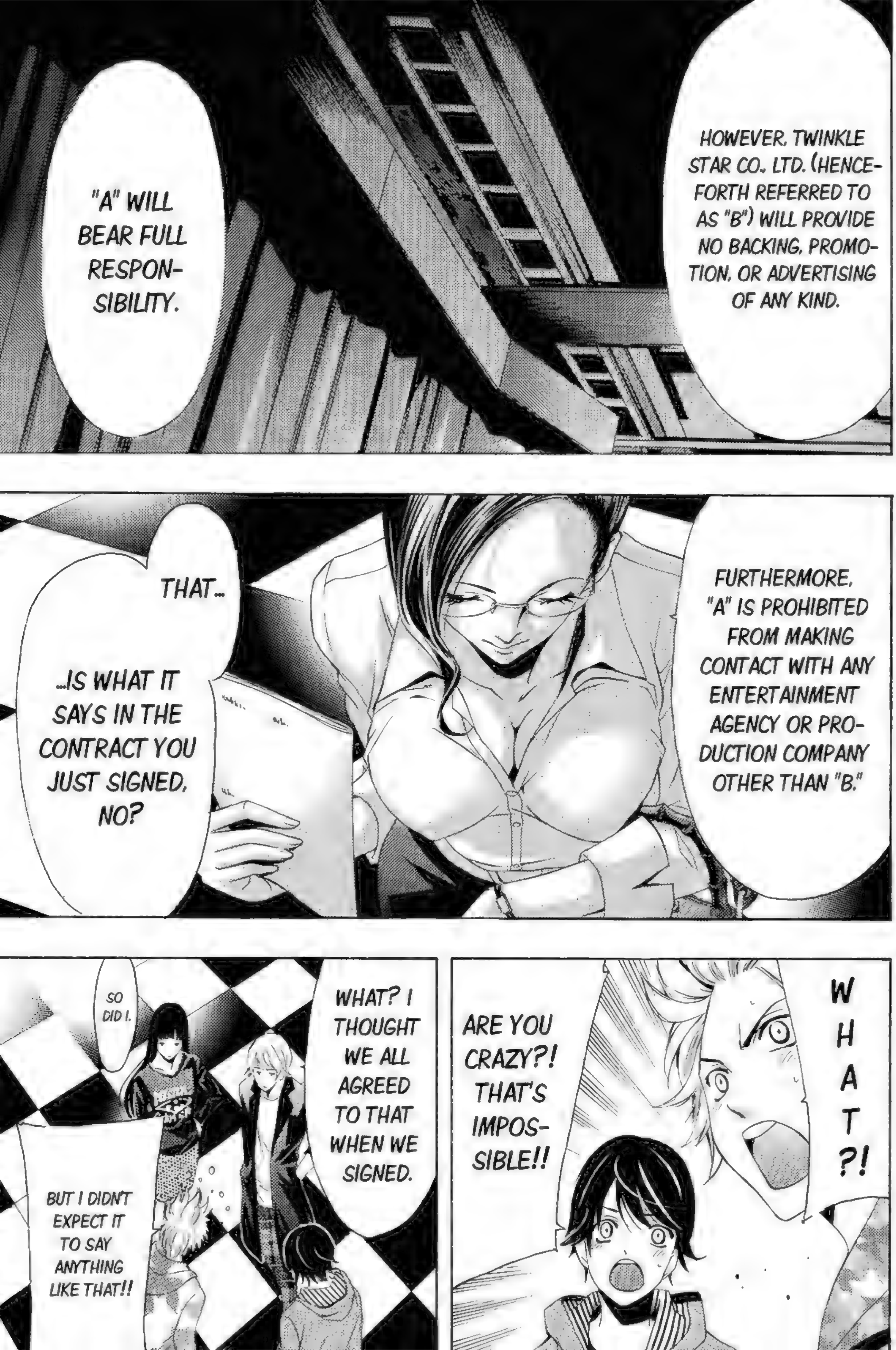

I DON'T HAVE ANY FAMOUS ARTISTS TO HELP BOOST YOUR VISIBILITY...
...AND I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO GET YOU A JOB PERFORMING A DRAMA THEME SONG.
BUT... YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE US, RIGHT?
HUH?
YOU'LL TAKE US...
...TO THE BUDOUKAN?
YES.
IF NOTHING ELSE, I THINK IT'S MUCH MORE REALISTIC THAN THE IDEA OF YOU GETTING THERE ON YOUR OWN.

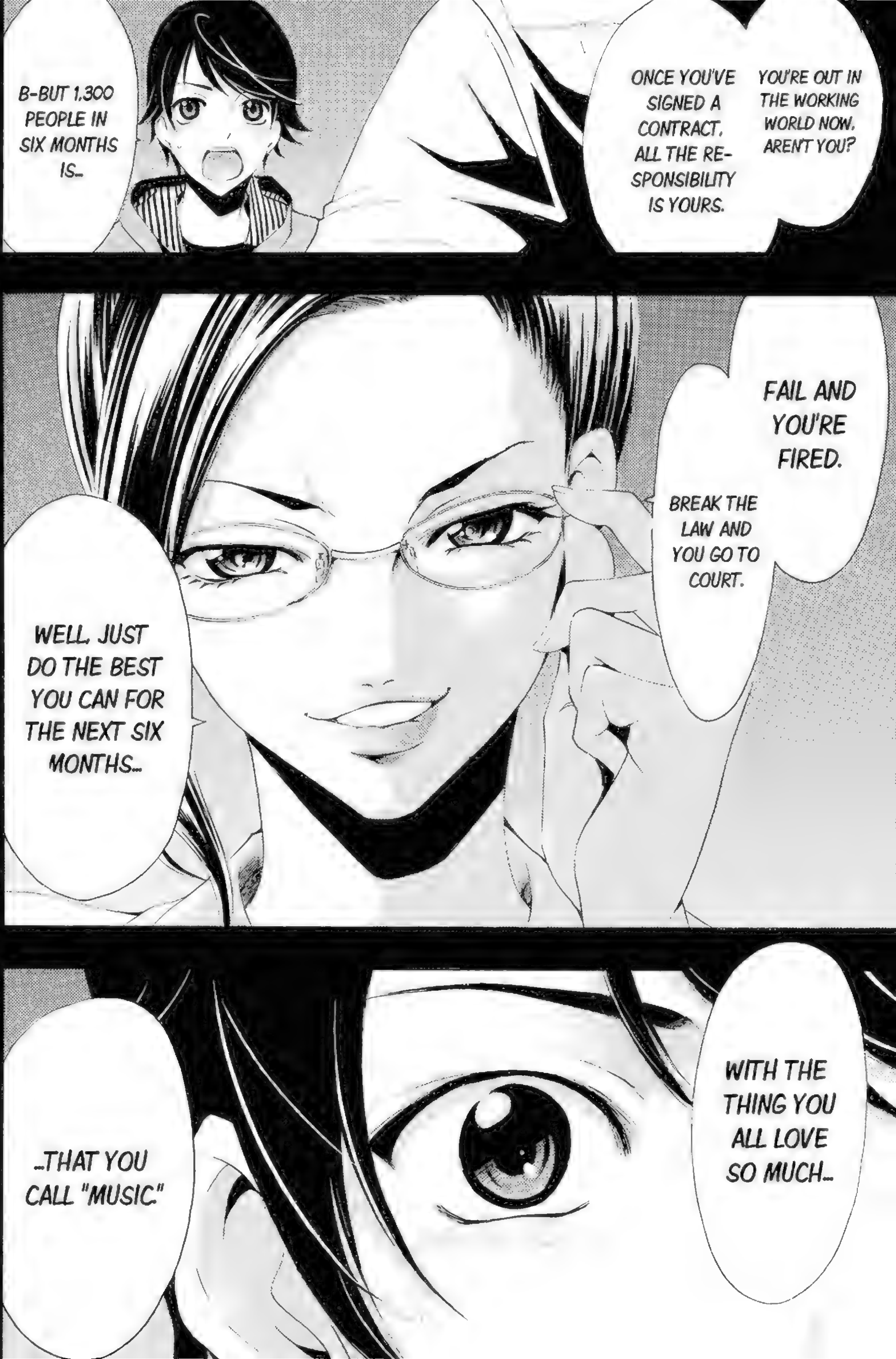

AND I...
WELL... IF THAT'S WHAT YUU-SAN WANTS.
I KNOW WE'RE IN NO POSITION TO BE PICKY ABOUT OUR PRODUCTION COMPANY...
...BUT MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE IT MORE THOUGHT.
IT SOUNDS FINE TO ME...
...IF YUU-KUN WANTS TO JOIN.
THEN I WANT TO JOIN...
...THIS COMPANY.

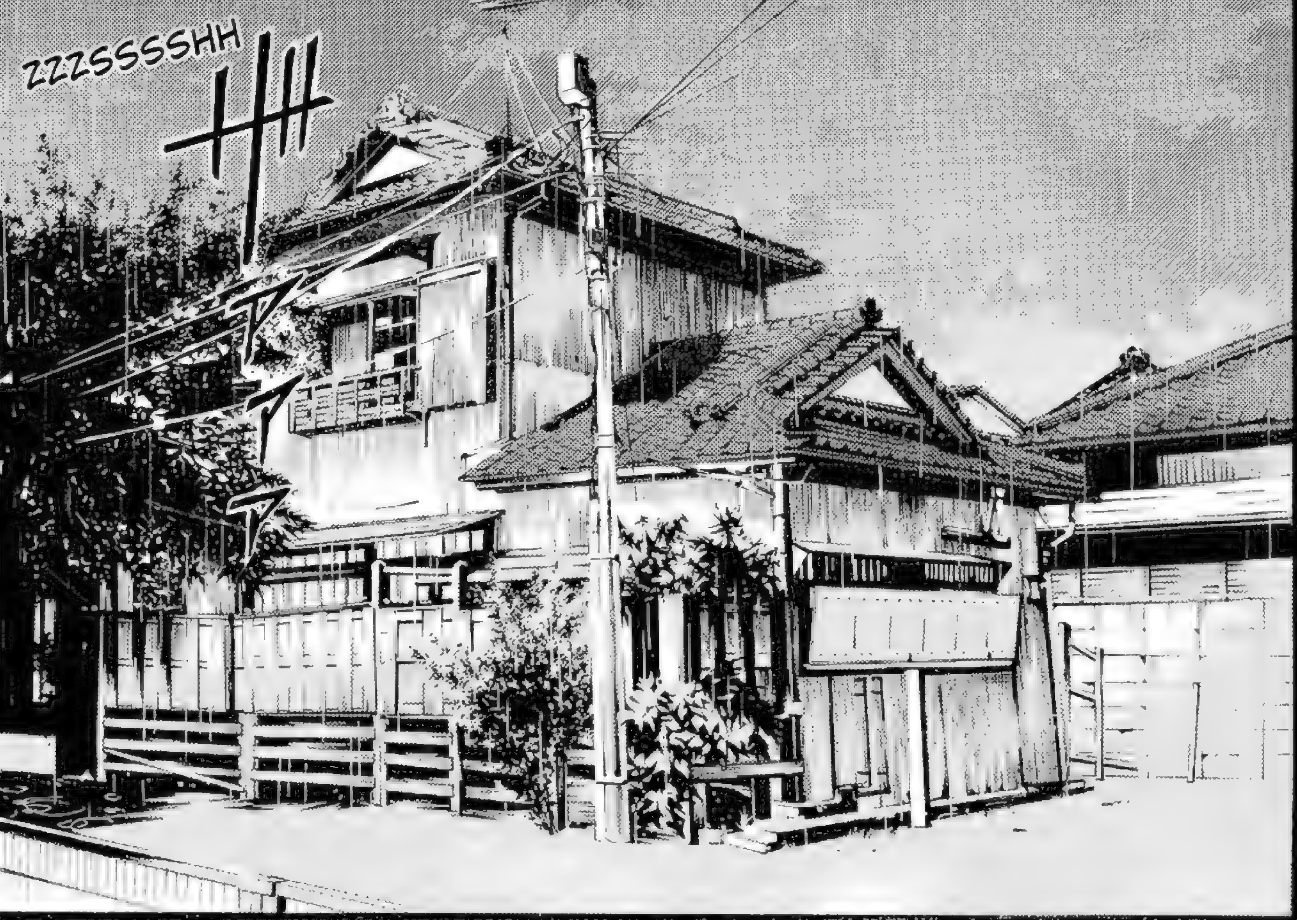

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THEN THAT'S THAT.
I WROTE UP A CONTRACT, SO IF YOU'LL JUST SIGN IT...
WHA... RIGHT NOW?!
MY PERSONAL BELIEF IS THAT...
...ORDINARY FOLKS WHO CAN'T MAKE IMMEDIATE DECISIONS WILL NEVER BE SUCCESSFUL.
BUT I DON'T HAVE MY PERSONAL SEAL WITH ME...
A THUMB PRINT WILL BE FINE.
JUST USE YOUR RIGHT THUMB.
YOU DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME!!
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
O-OKAY. FINE.
YOU JUST WANT ME TO SIGN IT, RIGHT?
OKAY, NOW THAT THE CONTRACT IS TAKEN CARE OF...
LET ME TAKE YOU TO A PLACE YOU'LL LIKE.


IS THIS PLACE...


Q-EAST. IT'S A LIVE MUSIC CLUB WITH A CAPACITY OF 1,300.
THE STAGE YOU PERFORMED ON FOR REBELLION WAS Q-WEST, IN THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET. ITS CAPACITY IS 600.
SO TWICE THAT MANY FANS WOULD FIT IN HERE...
YOU'LL LET US PERFORM HERE?!
YOU WILL PERFORM HERE...
HUH?
BUT ON YOUR OWN MERITS.
THE FALLEN MOON (HENCEFORTH REFERRED TO AS "A") WILL HOLD A SOLO CONCERT HERE, AT Q-EAST, SIX MONTHS FROM THIS DATE, ON OCTOBER 14TH...
...BEFORE A FULL HOUSE.
Q EAST

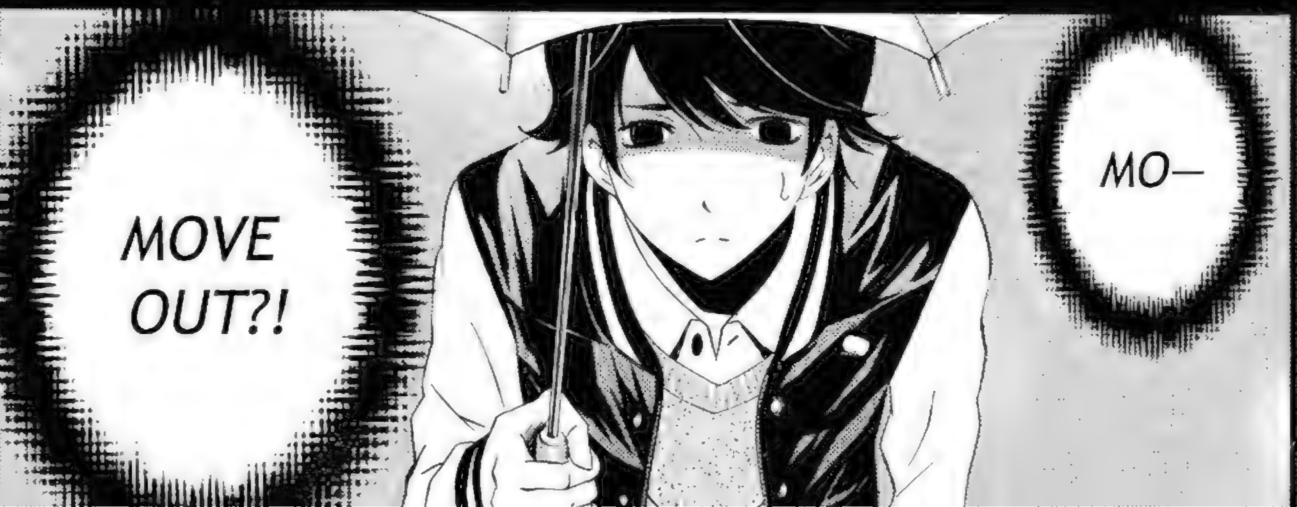

HOWEVER, TWINKLE STAR CO., LTD. (HENCEFORTH REFERRED TO AS "B") WILL PROVIDE NO BACKING, PROMOTION, OR ADVERTISING OF ANY KIND.
"A" WILL BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY.
FURTHERMORE, "A" IS PROHIBITED FROM MAKING CONTACT WITH ANY ENTERTAINMENT AGENCY OR PRODUCTION COMPANY OTHER THAN "B."
THAT...
...IS WHAT IT SAYS IN THE CONTRACT YOU JUST SIGNED, NO?
WHAT?!
ARE YOU CRAZY?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
WHAT? I THOUGHT WE ALL AGREED TO THAT WHEN WE SIGNED.
SO DID I.
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!

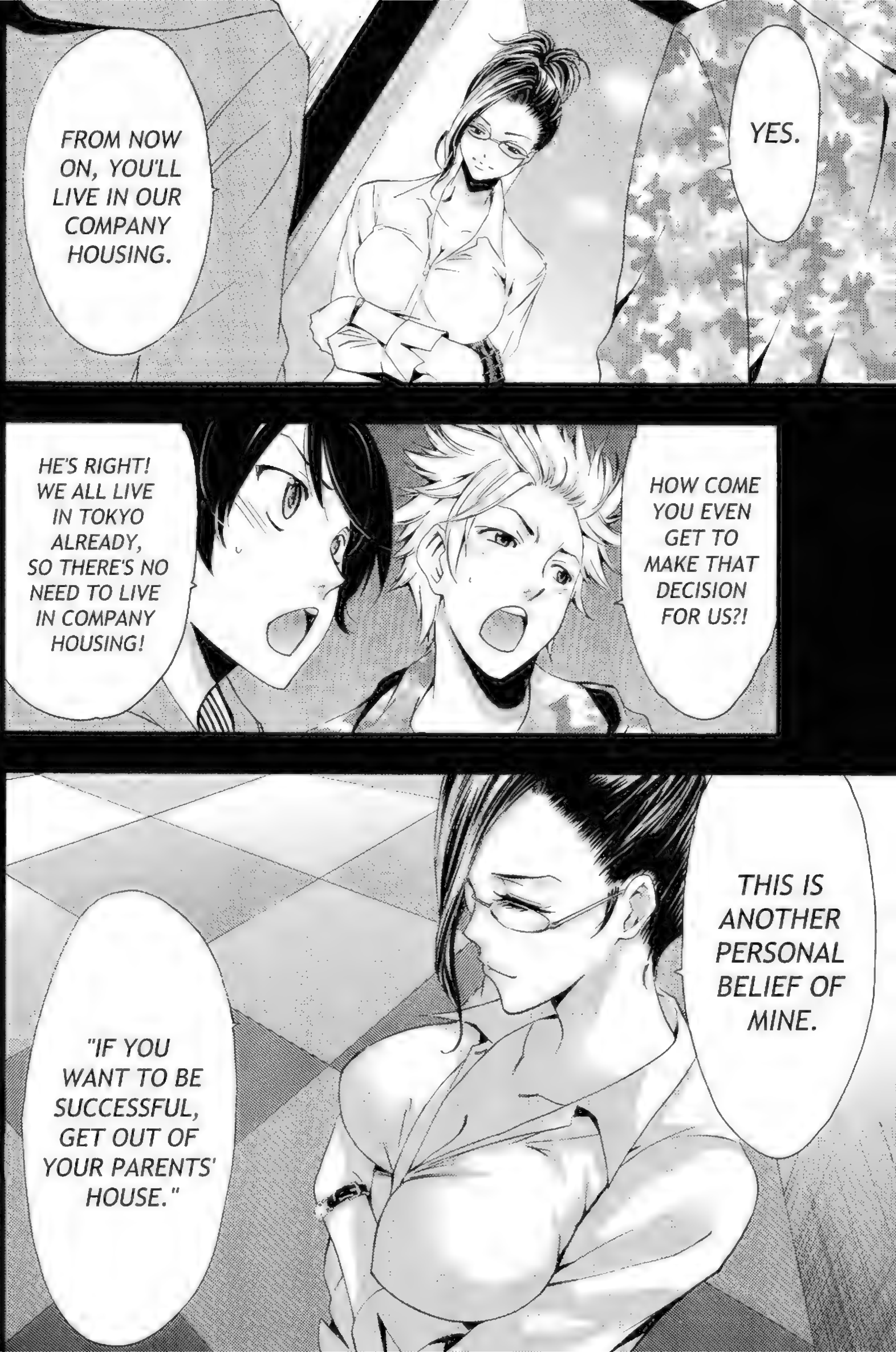

YOU'RE OUT IN THE WORKING WORLD NOW, AREN'T YOU?
ONCE YOU'VE SIGNED A CONTRACT, ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS.
B-BUT 1,300 PEOPLE IN SIX MONTHS IS...
FAIL AND YOU'RE FIRED.
BREAK THE LAW AND YOU GO TO COURT.
WELL, JUST DO THE BEST YOU CAN FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS...
WITH THE THING YOU ALL LOVE SO MUCH...
...THAT YOU CALL "MUSIC."

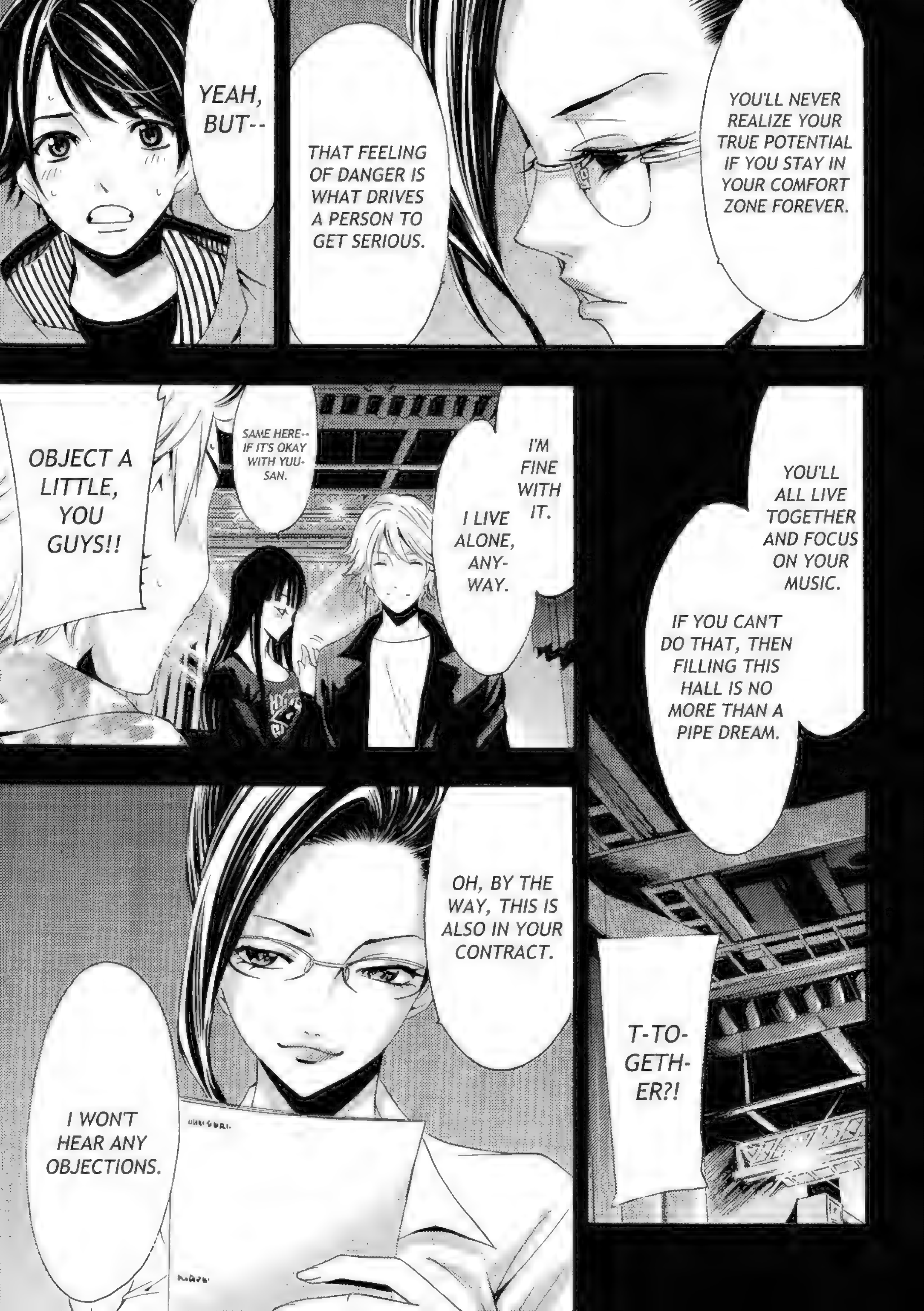


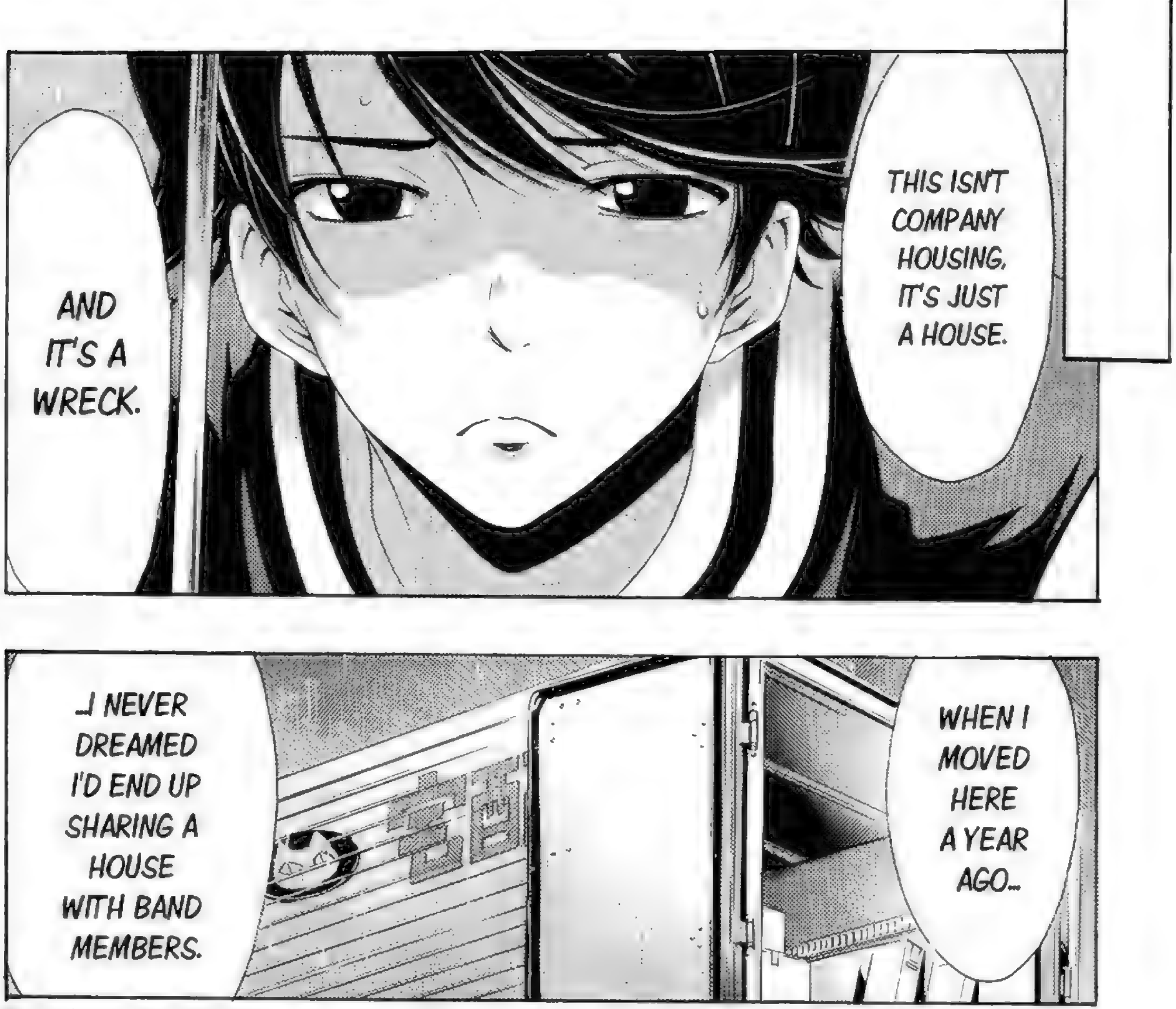
Fuuka

# 60 SHARING A HOUSE.

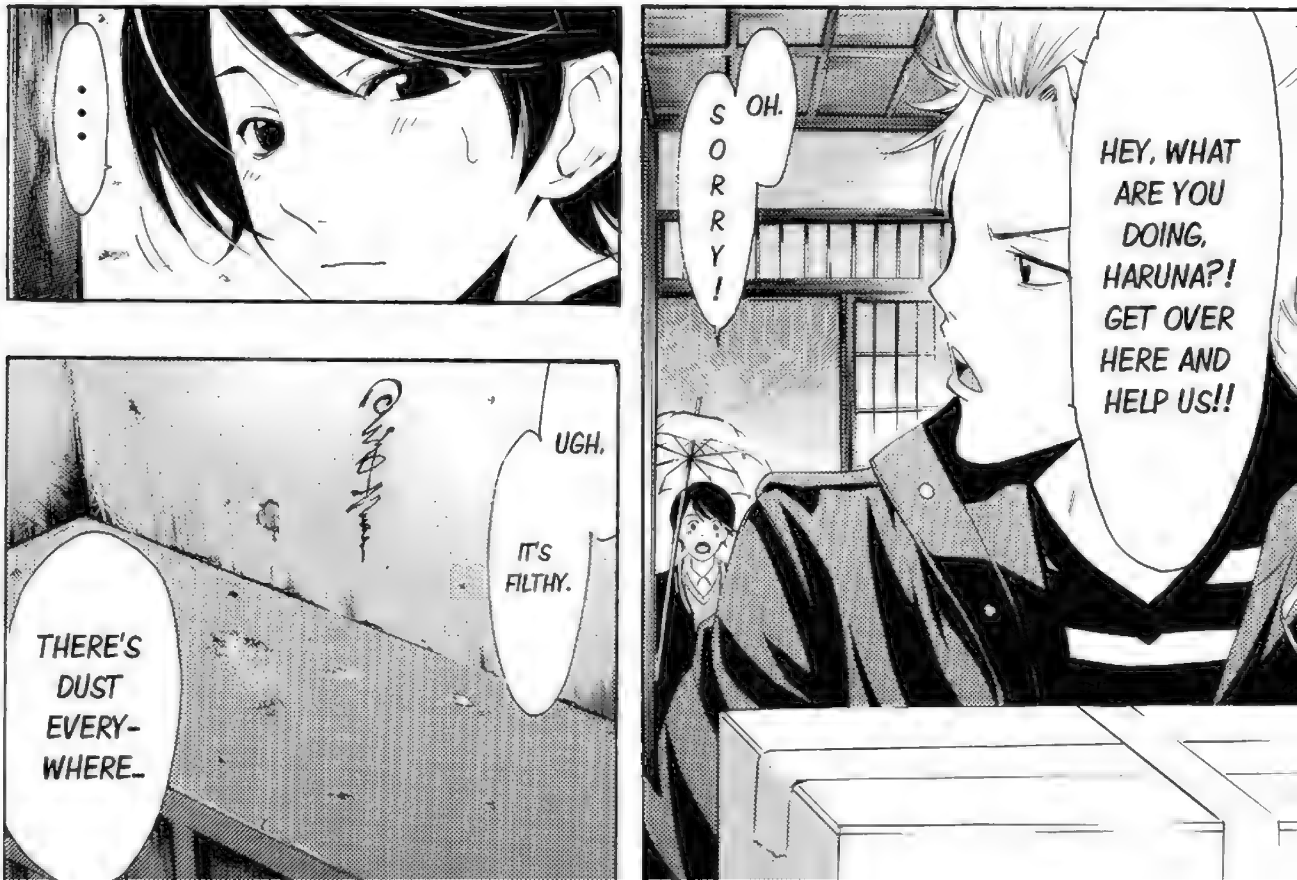


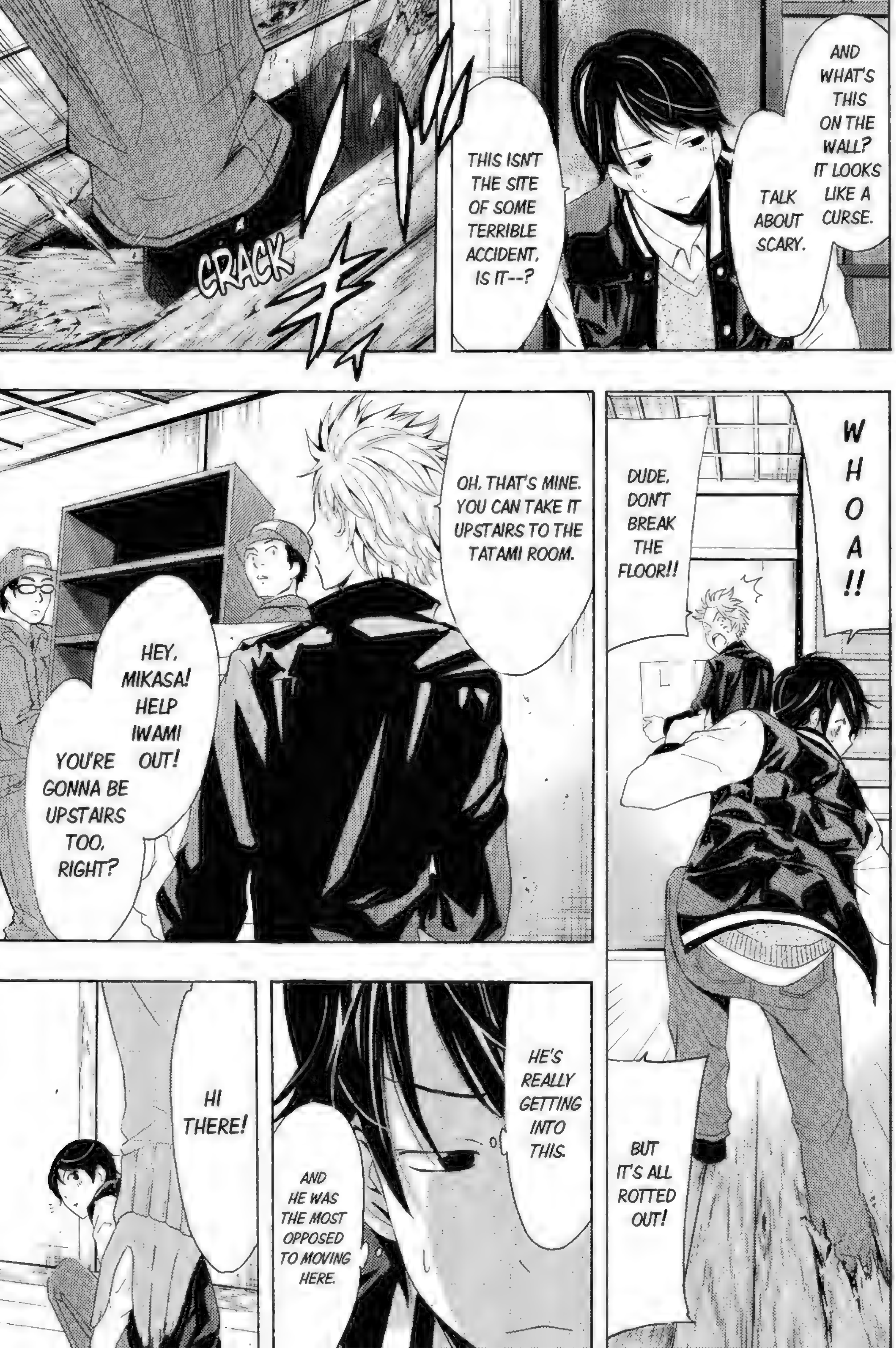

YES.
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL LIVE IN OUR COMPANY HOUSING.
HOW COME YOU EVEN GET TO MAKE THAT DECISION FOR US?!
HE'S RIGHT! WE ALL LIVE IN TOKYO ALREADY, SO THERE'S NO NEED TO LIVE IN COMPANY HOUSING!
THIS IS ANOTHER PERSONAL BELIEF OF MINE.
"IF YOU WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL, GET OUT OF YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE."

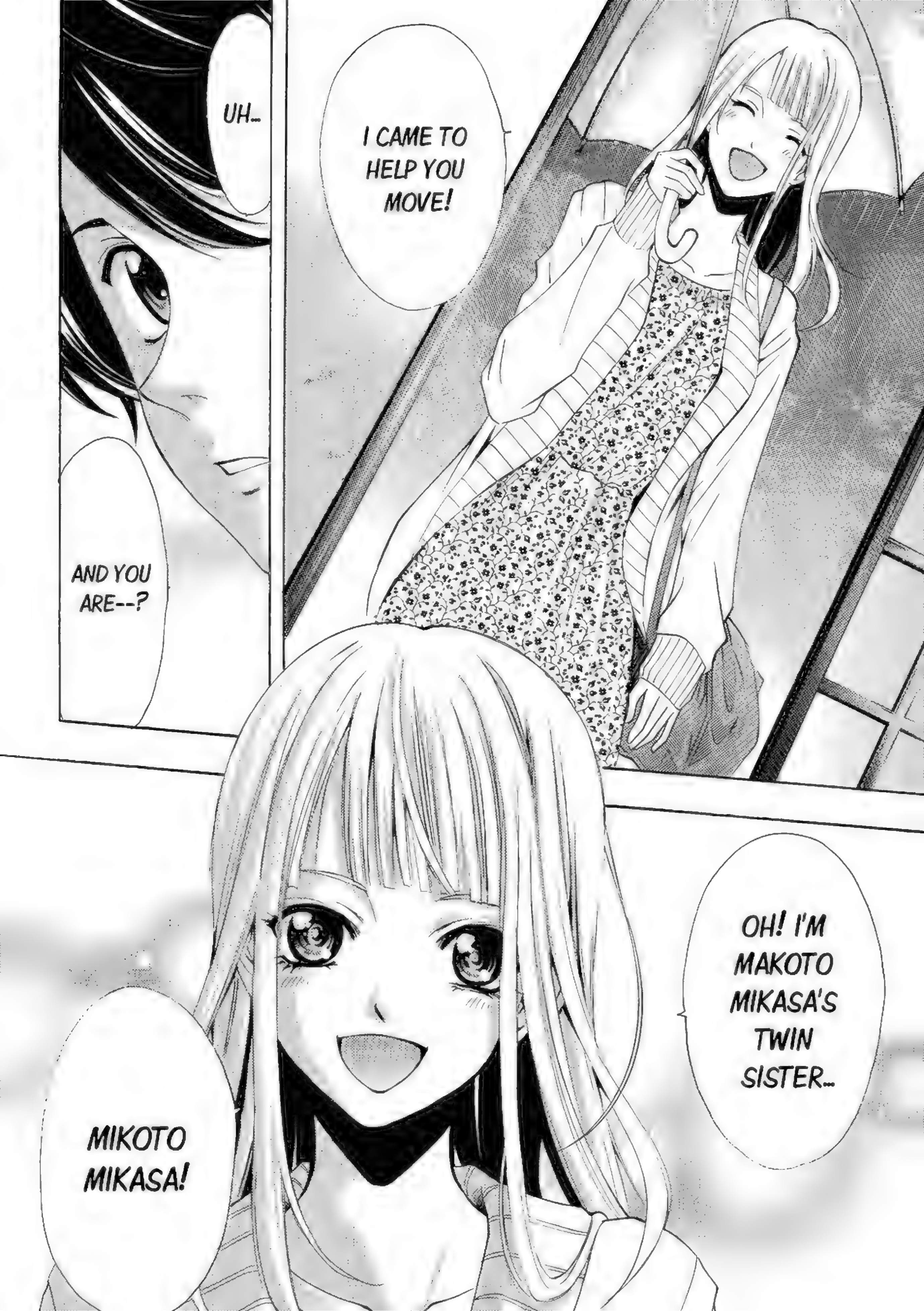

YOU'LL NEVER REALIZE YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL IF YOU STAY IN YOUR COMFORT ZONE FOREVER.
THAT FEELING OF DANGER IS WHAT DRIVES A PERSON TO GET SERIOUS.
YEAH, BUT--
YOU'LL ALL LIVE TOGETHER AND FOCUS ON YOUR MUSIC.
IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, THEN FILLING THIS HALL IS NO MORE THAN A PIPE DREAM.
I'M FINE WITH IT.
I LIVE ALONE, ANYWAY.
SAME HERE-- IF IT'S OKAY WITH YUU-SAN.
OBJECT A LITTLE, YOU GUYS!!
T-TOGETHER?!
OH, BY THE WAY, THIS IS ALSO IN YOUR CONTRACT.
I WON'T HEAR ANY OBJECTIONS.

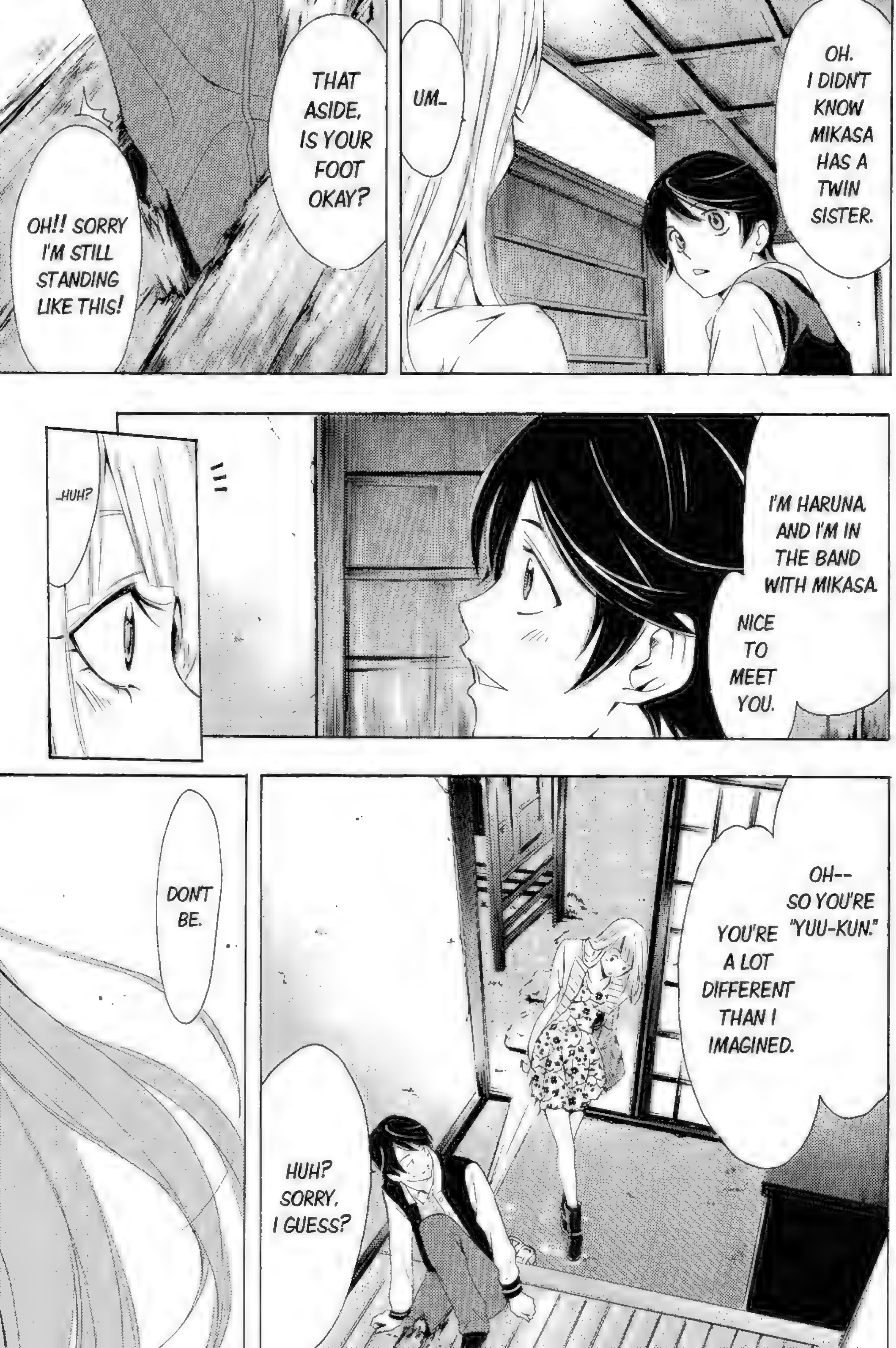

THIS ISN'T COMPANY HOUSING, IT'S JUST A HOUSE.
AND IT'S A WRECK.
WHEN I MOVED HERE A YEAR AGO...
...I NEVER DREAMED I'D END UP SHARING A HOUSE WITH BAND MEMBERS.

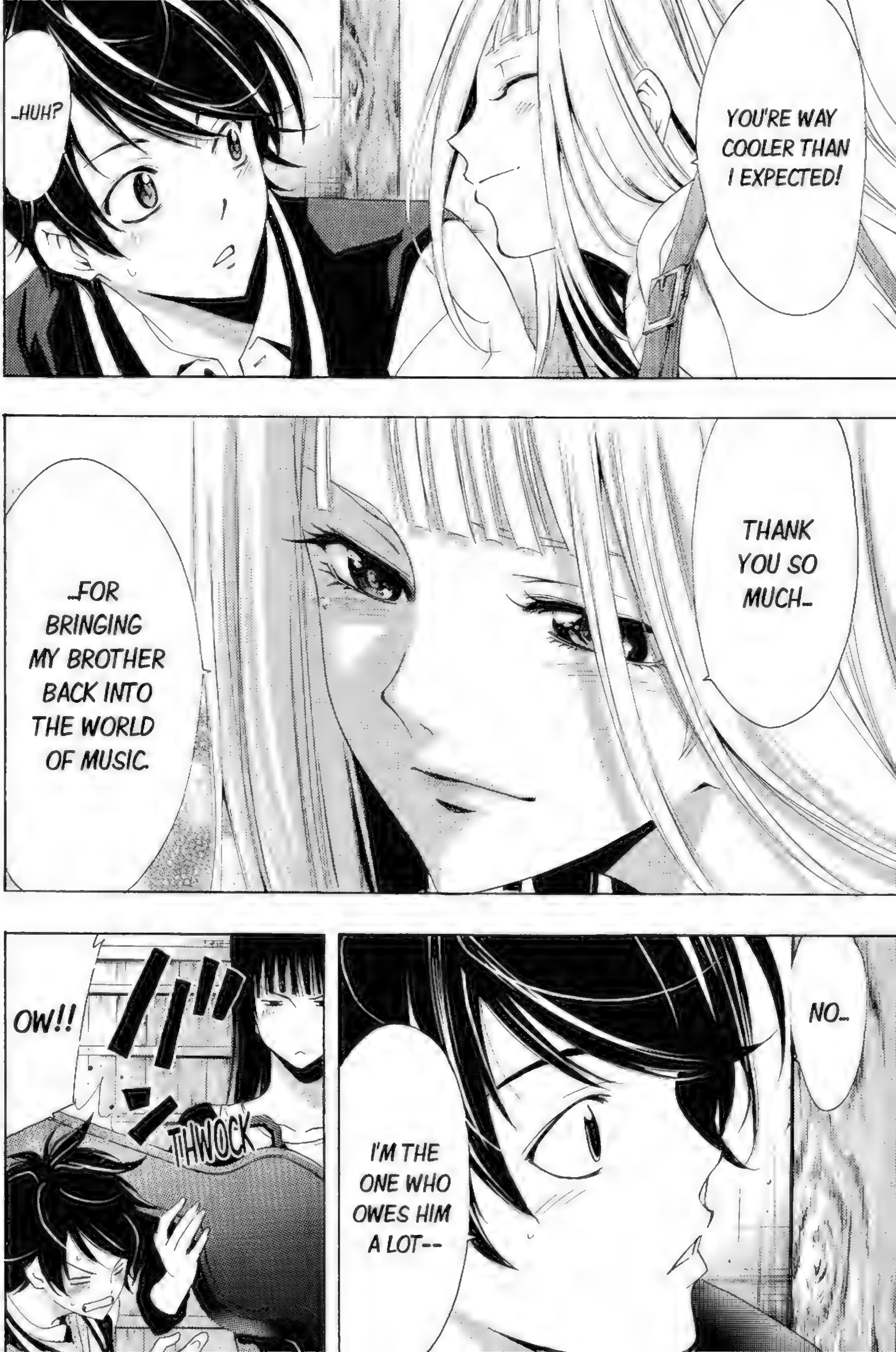
TRUCK: DELIVERY

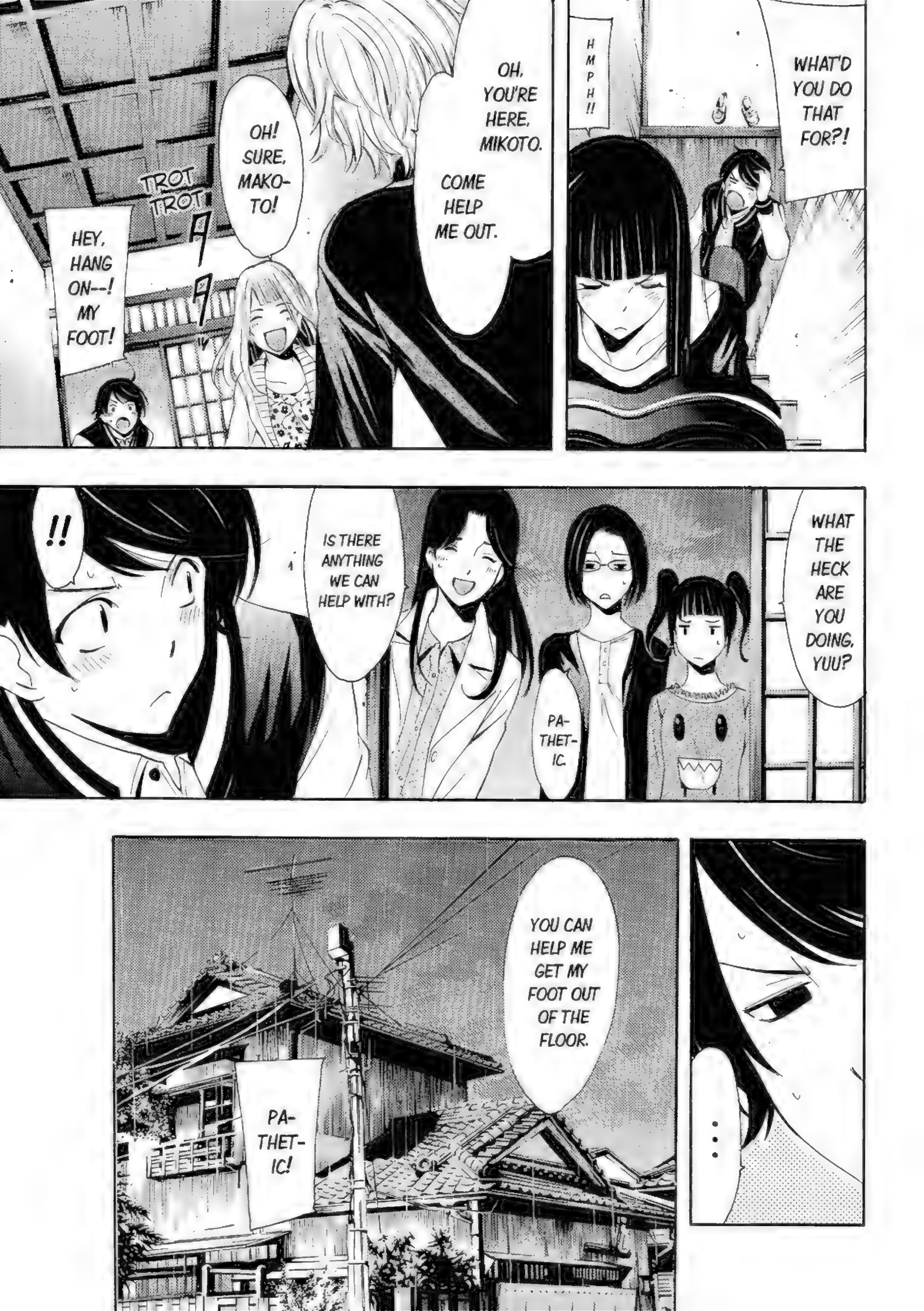

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HARUNA?! GET OVER HERE AND HELP US!!
OH.
SORRY!
...
UGH.
IT'S FILTHY.
THERE'S DUST EVERYWHERE...

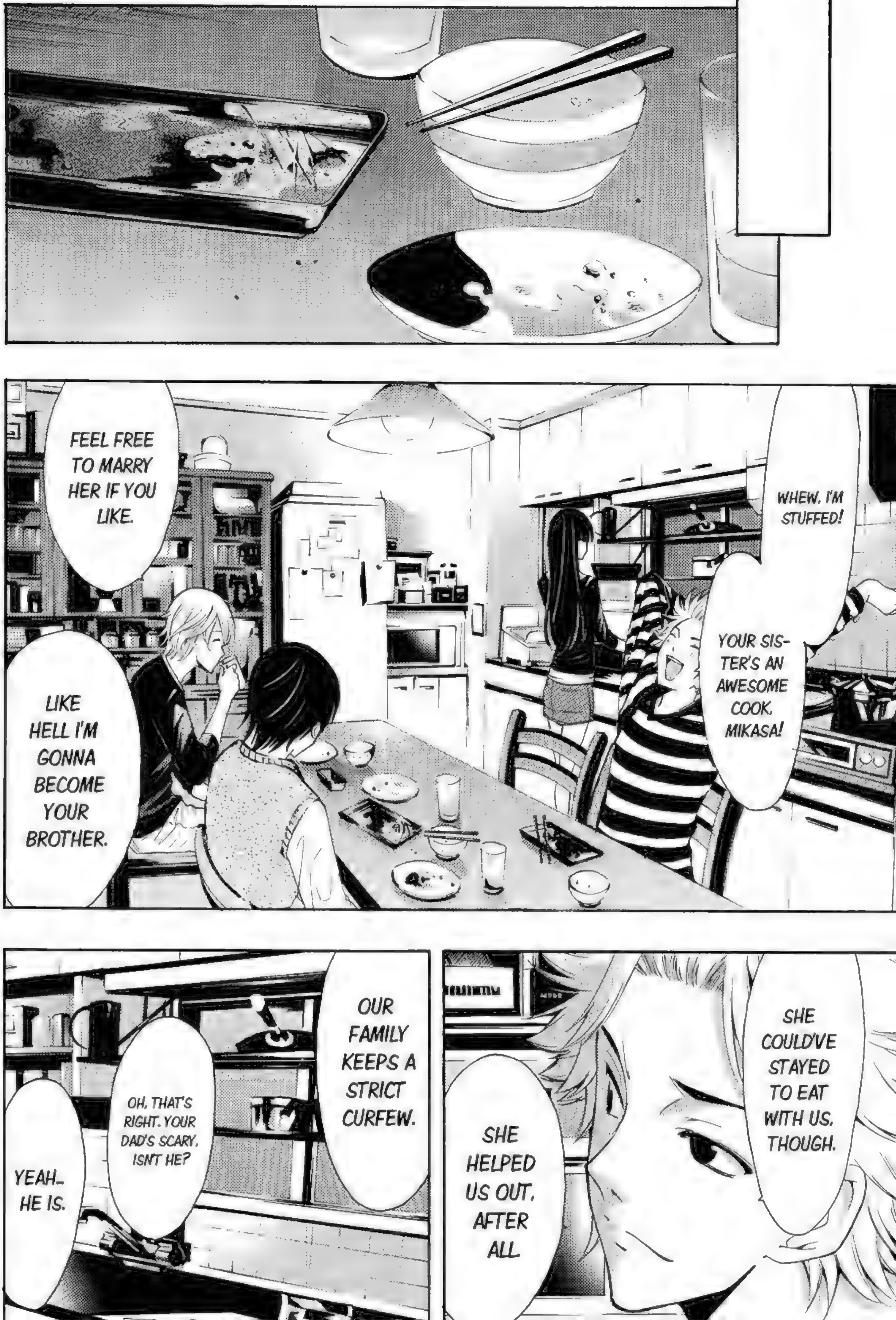

AND WHAT'S THIS ON THE WALL? IT LOOKS LIKE A CURSE.
TALK ABOUT SCARY.
THIS ISN'T THE SITE OF SOME TERRIBLE ACCIDENT, IS IT--?
CRACK
WHOA!!
DUDE, DON'T BREAK THE FLOOR!!
BUT IT'S ALL ROTTED OUT!
OH, THAT'S MINE. YOU CAN TAKE IT UPSTAIRS TO THE TATAMI ROOM.
HEY, MIKASA! HELP IWAMI OUT!
YOU'RE GONNA BE UPSTAIRS TOO, RIGHT?
HE'S REALLY GETTING INTO THIS.
AND HE WAS THE MOST OPPOSED TO MOVING HERE.
HI THERE!

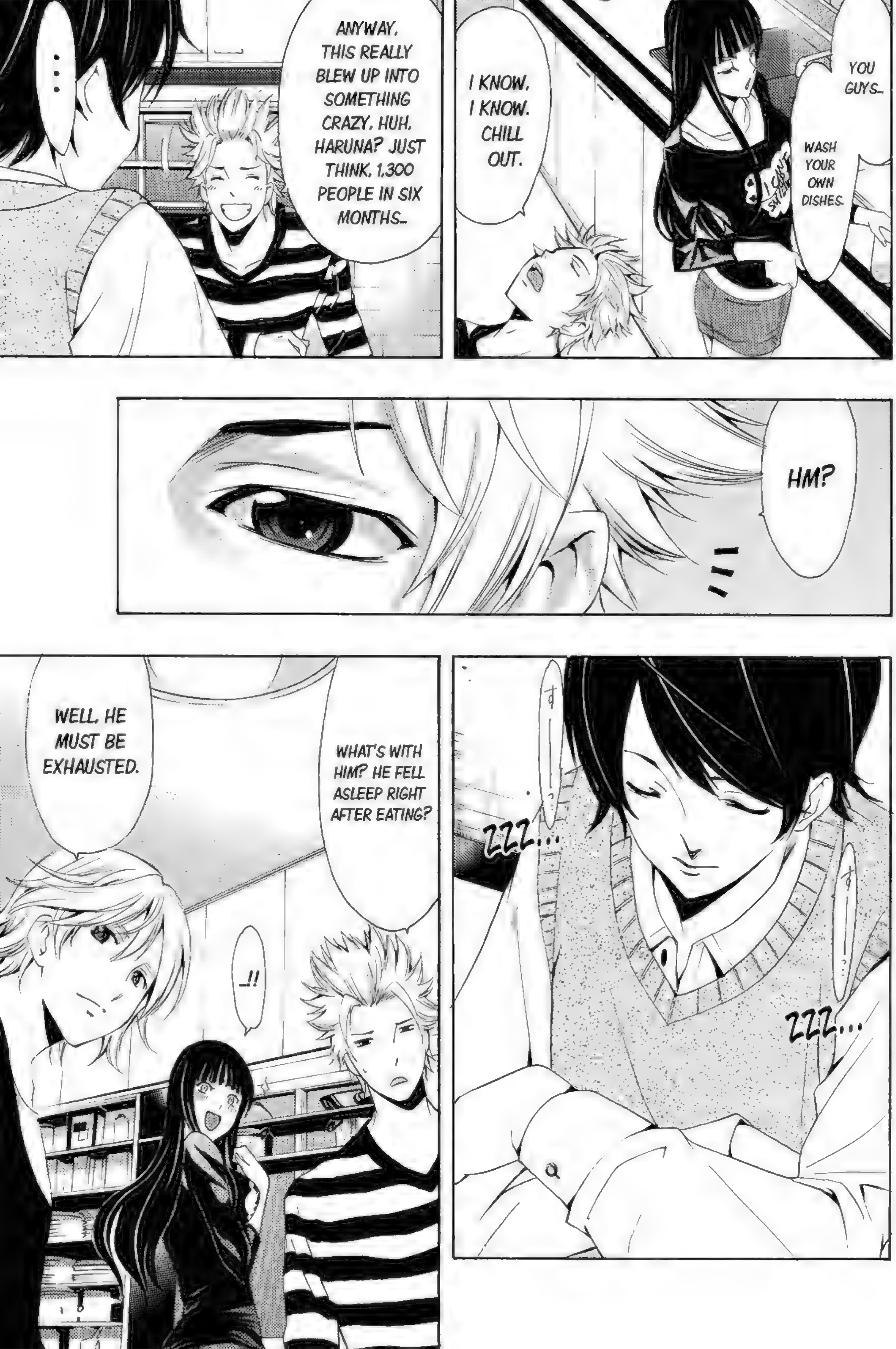

I CAME TO HELP YOU MOVE!
UH...
AND YOU ARE--?
OH! I'M MAKOTO MIKASA'S TWIN SISTER...
MIKOTO MIKASA!

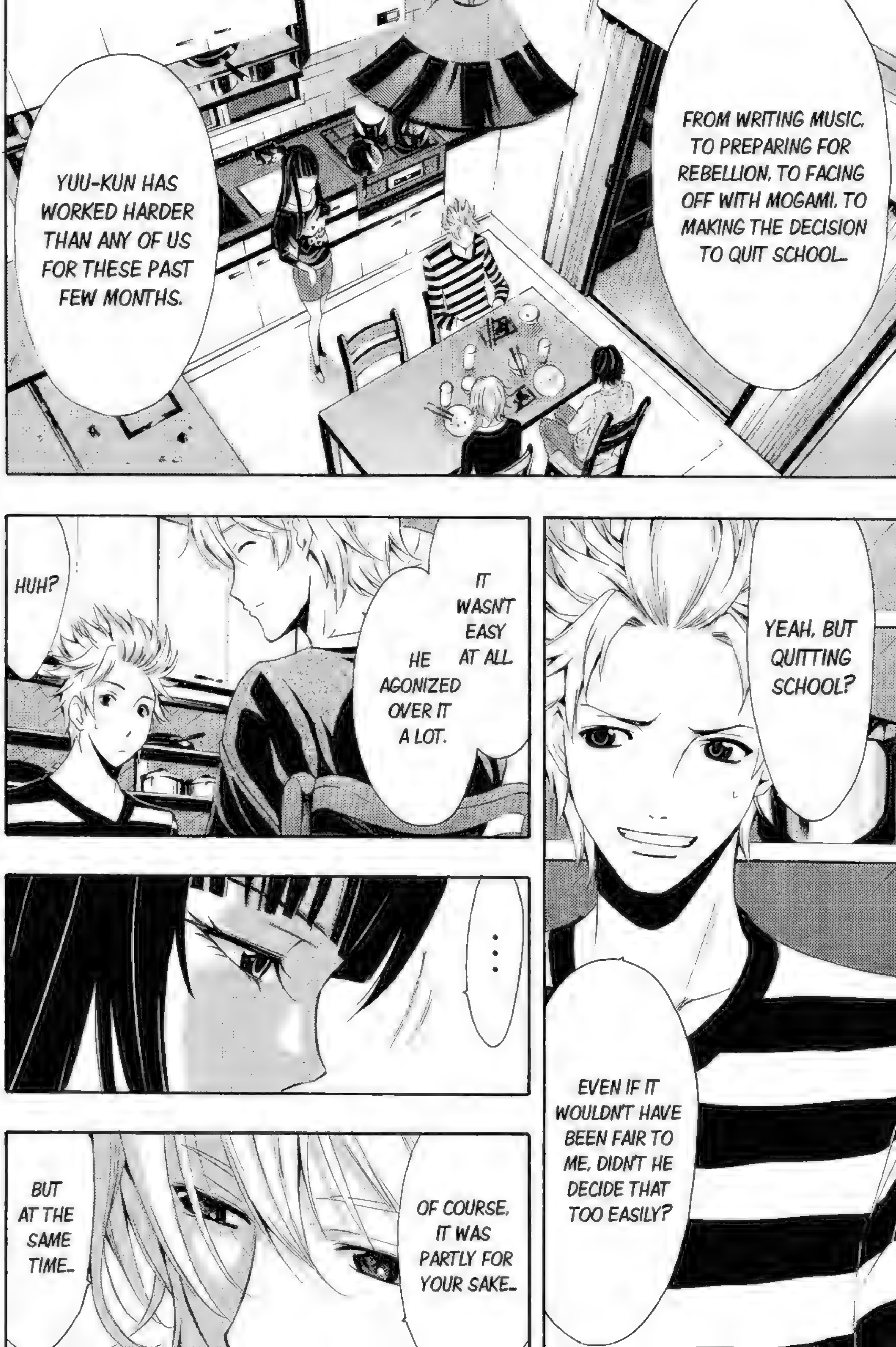

OH. I DIDN'T KNOW MIKASA HAS A TWIN SISTER.
UM...
THAT ASIDE, IS YOUR FOOT OKAY?
OH!! SORRY I'M STILL STANDING LIKE THIS!
I'M HARUNA, AND I'M IN THE BAND WITH MIKASA.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
...HUH?
OH-- SO YOU'RE "YUU-KUN."
YOU'RE A LOT DIFFERENT THAN I IMAGINED.
HUH? SORRY, I GUESS?
DON'T BE.

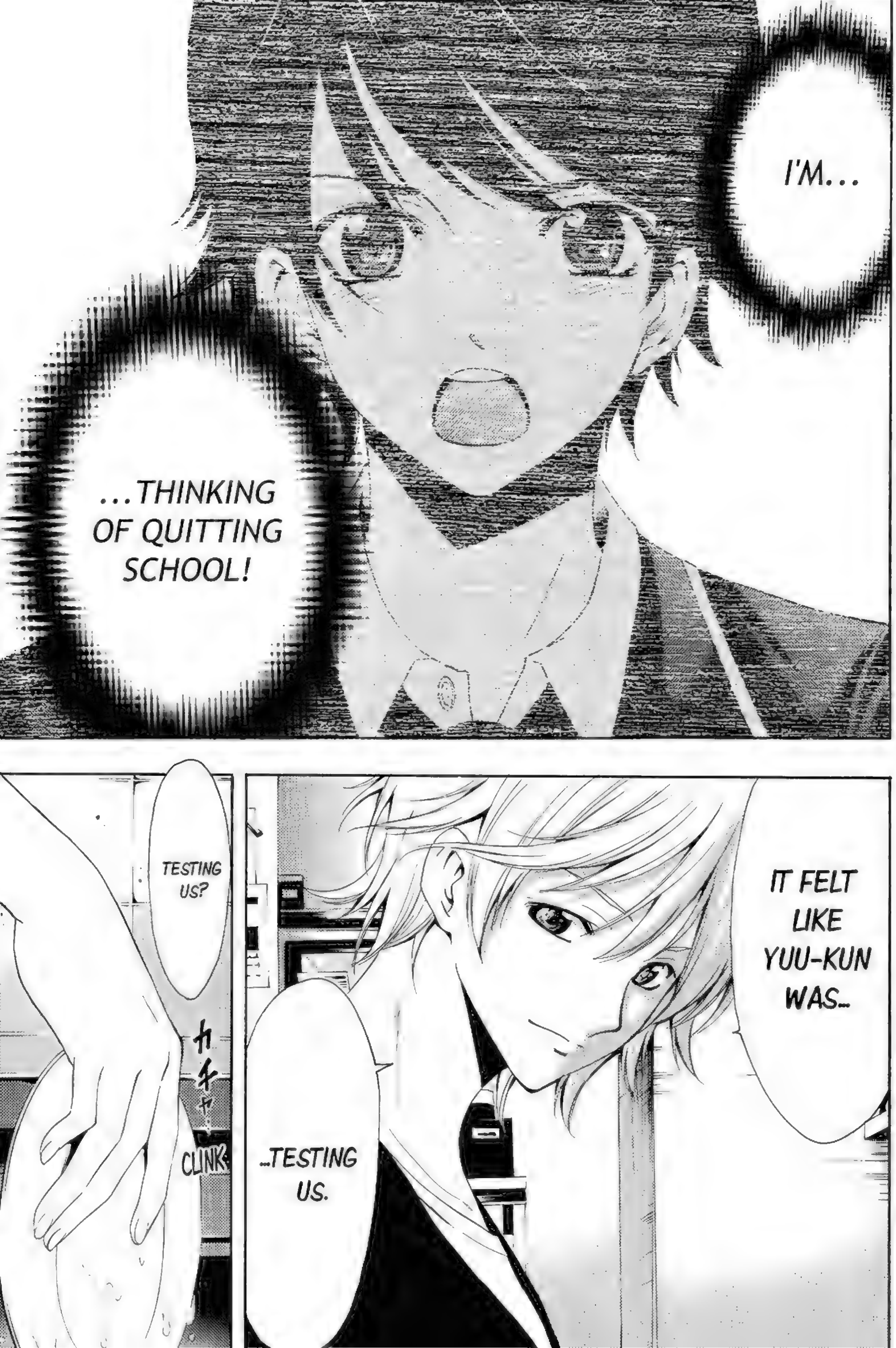

YOU'RE WAY COOLER THAN I EXPECTED!
...HUH?
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
...FOR BRINGING MY BROTHER BACK INTO THE WORLD OF MUSIC.
NO...
I'M THE ONE WHO OWES HIM A LOT--
THWOCK
OW!!

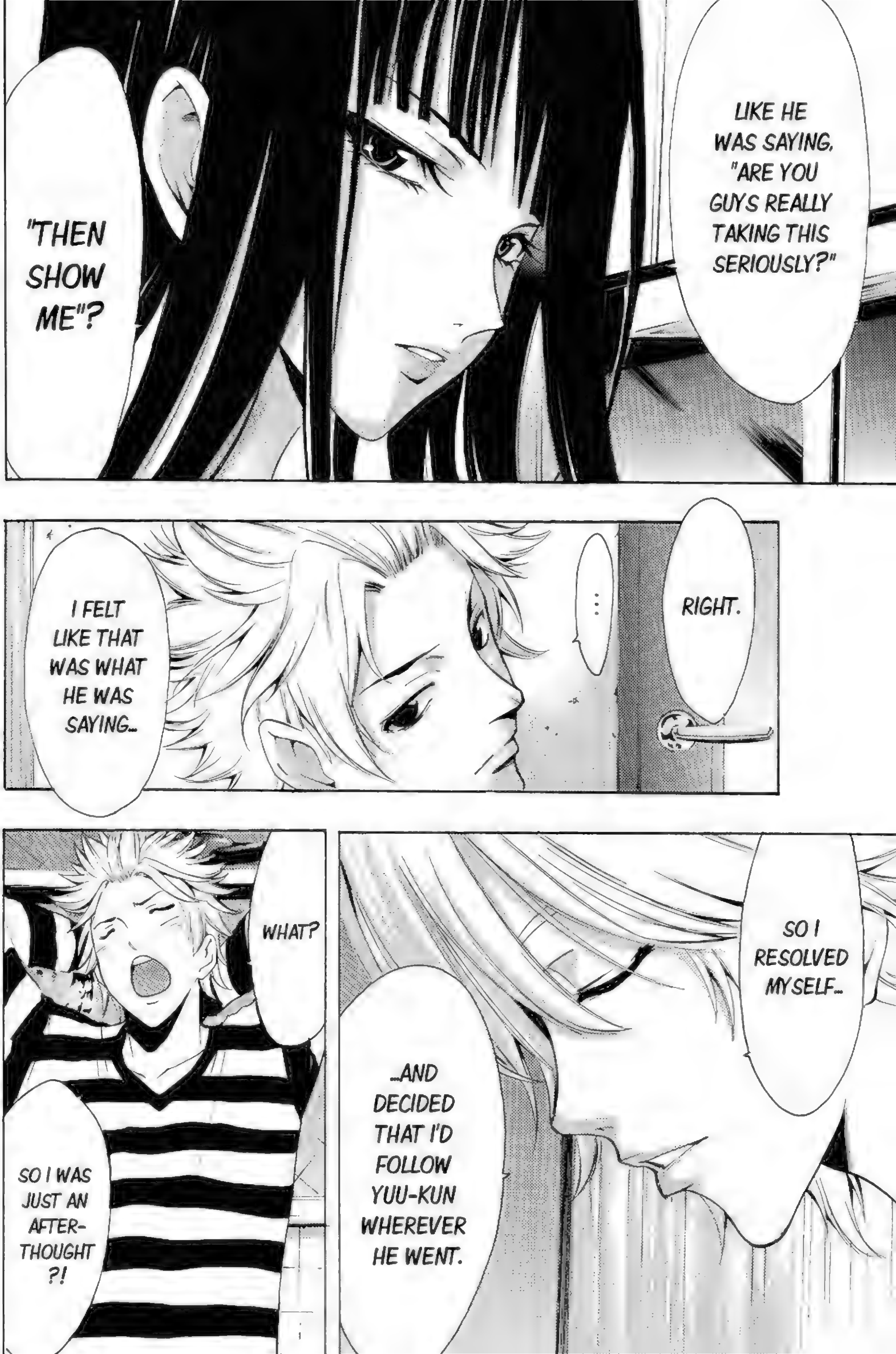

WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!
HMPH!!
OH, YOU'RE HERE, MIKOTO.
COME HELP ME OUT.
OH! SURE, MAKOTO!
TROT TROT
HEY, HANG ON--! MY FOOT!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING, YUU?
PATHETIC.
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN HELP WITH?
!!
...
YOU CAN HELP ME GET MY FOOT OUT OF THE FLOOR.
PATHETIC!

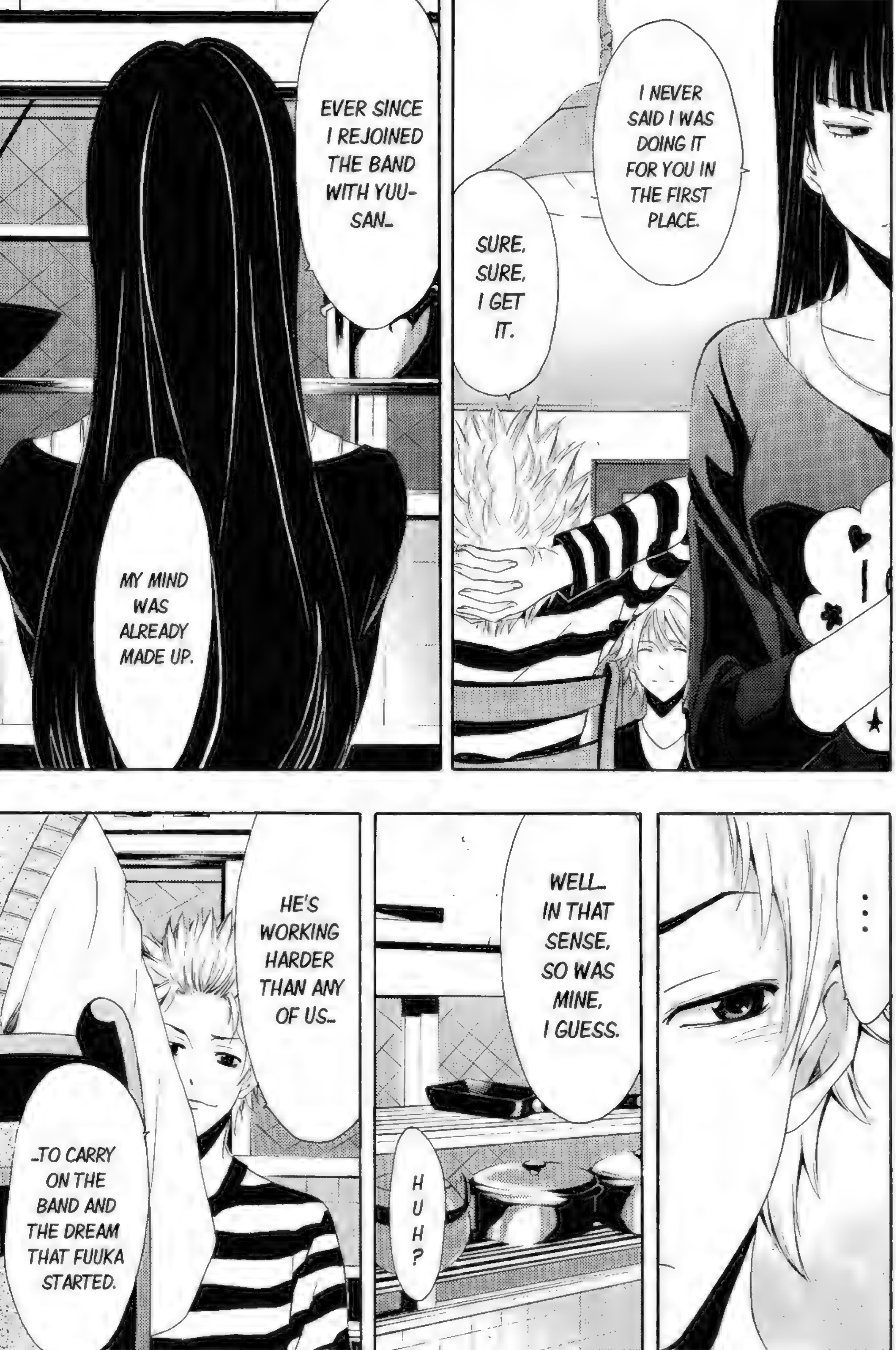

WHEW, I'M STUFFED!
YOUR SISTER'S AN AWESOME COOK, MIKASA!
FEEL FREE TO MARRY HER IF YOU LIKE.
LIKE HELL I'M GONNA BECOME YOUR BROTHER.
SHE COULD'VE STAYED TO EAT WITH US, THOUGH.
SHE HELPED US OUT, AFTER ALL.
OUR FAMILY KEEPS A STRICT CURFEW.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOUR DAD'S SCARY, ISN'T HE?
YEAH... HE IS.

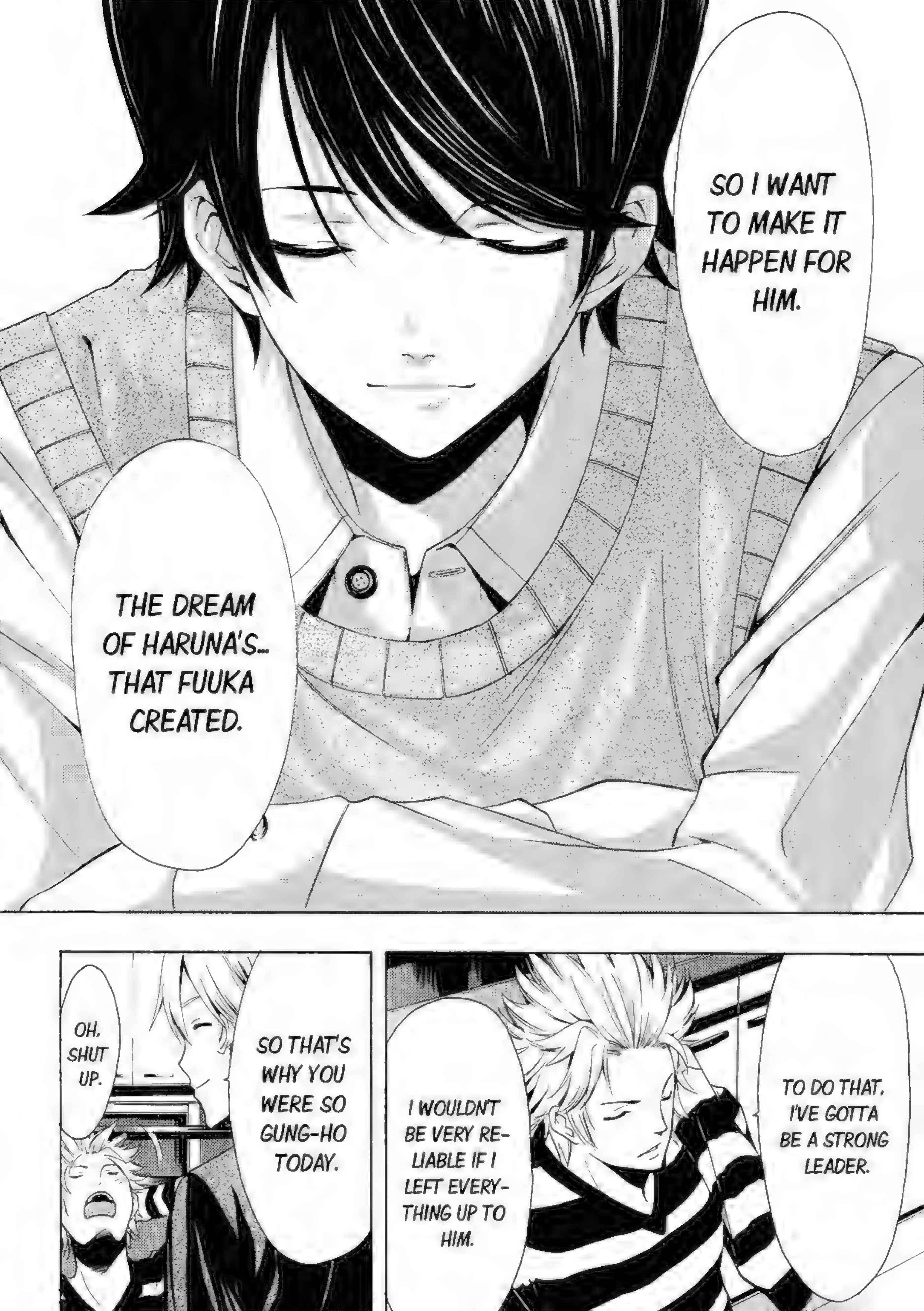

YOU GUYS...
WASH YOUR OWN DISHES.
I KNOW, I KNOW. CHILL OUT.
ANYWAY, THIS REALLY BLEW UP INTO SOMETHING CRAZY, HUH, HARUNA? JUST THINK, 1,300 PEOPLE IN SIX MONTHS...
...
HM?
すー…
ZZZ...
すー…
ZZZ...
WHAT'S WITH HIM? HE FELL ASLEEP RIGHT AFTER EATING?
WELL, HE MUST BE EXHAUSTED.
...!!

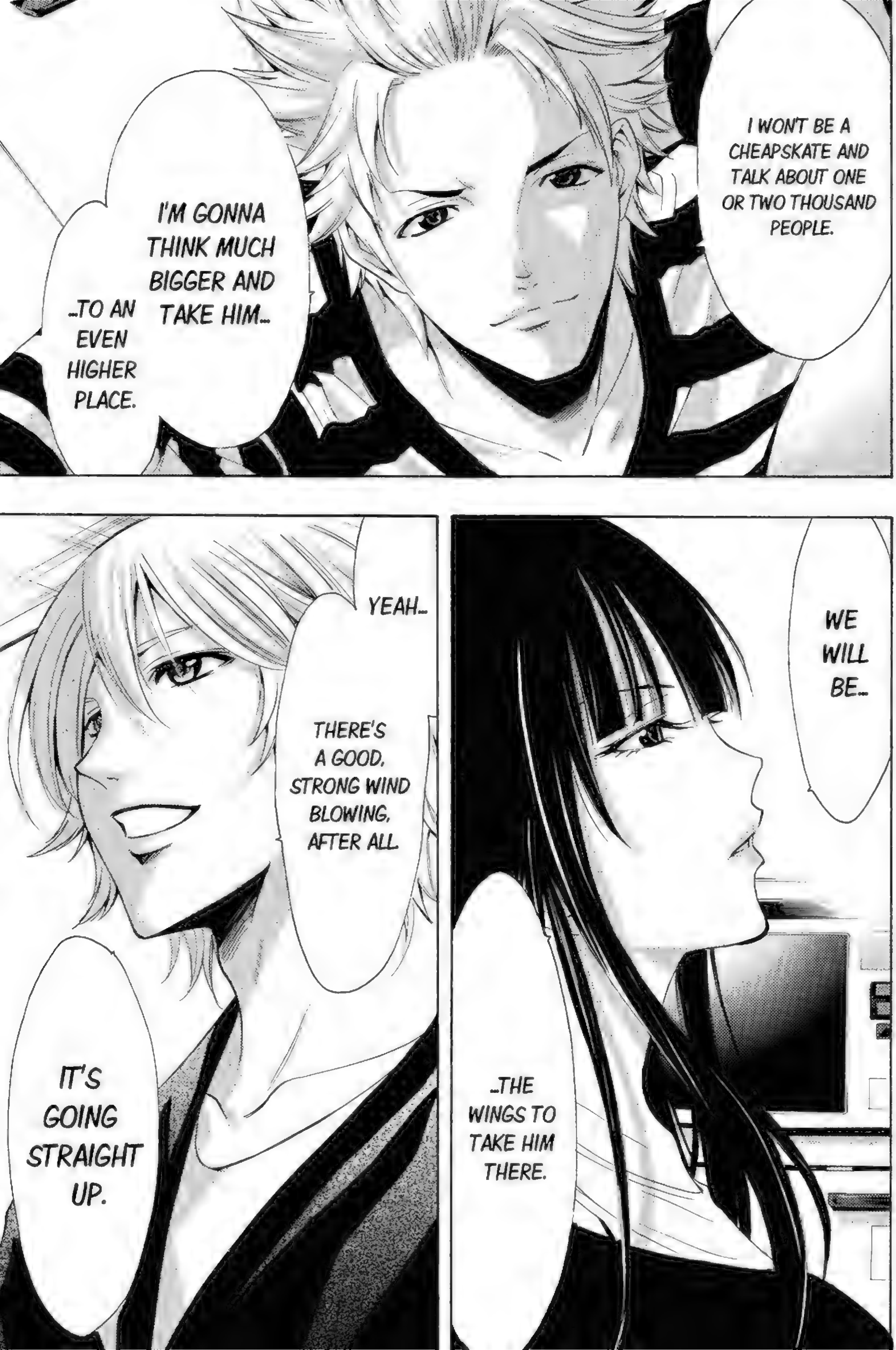

YUU-KUN HAS WORKED HARDER THAN ANY OF US FOR THESE PAST FEW MONTHS.
FROM WRITING MUSIC, TO PREPARING FOR REBELLION, TO FACING OFF WITH MOGAMI, TO MAKING THE DECISION TO QUIT SCHOOL...
HUH?
IT WASN'T EASY AT ALL.
HE AGONIZED OVER IT A LOT.
YEAH, BUT QUITTING SCHOOL?
EVEN IF IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN FAIR TO ME, DIDN'T HE DECIDE THAT TOO EASILY?
...
OF COURSE, IT WAS PARTLY FOR YOUR SAKE...
BUT AT THE SAME TIME...

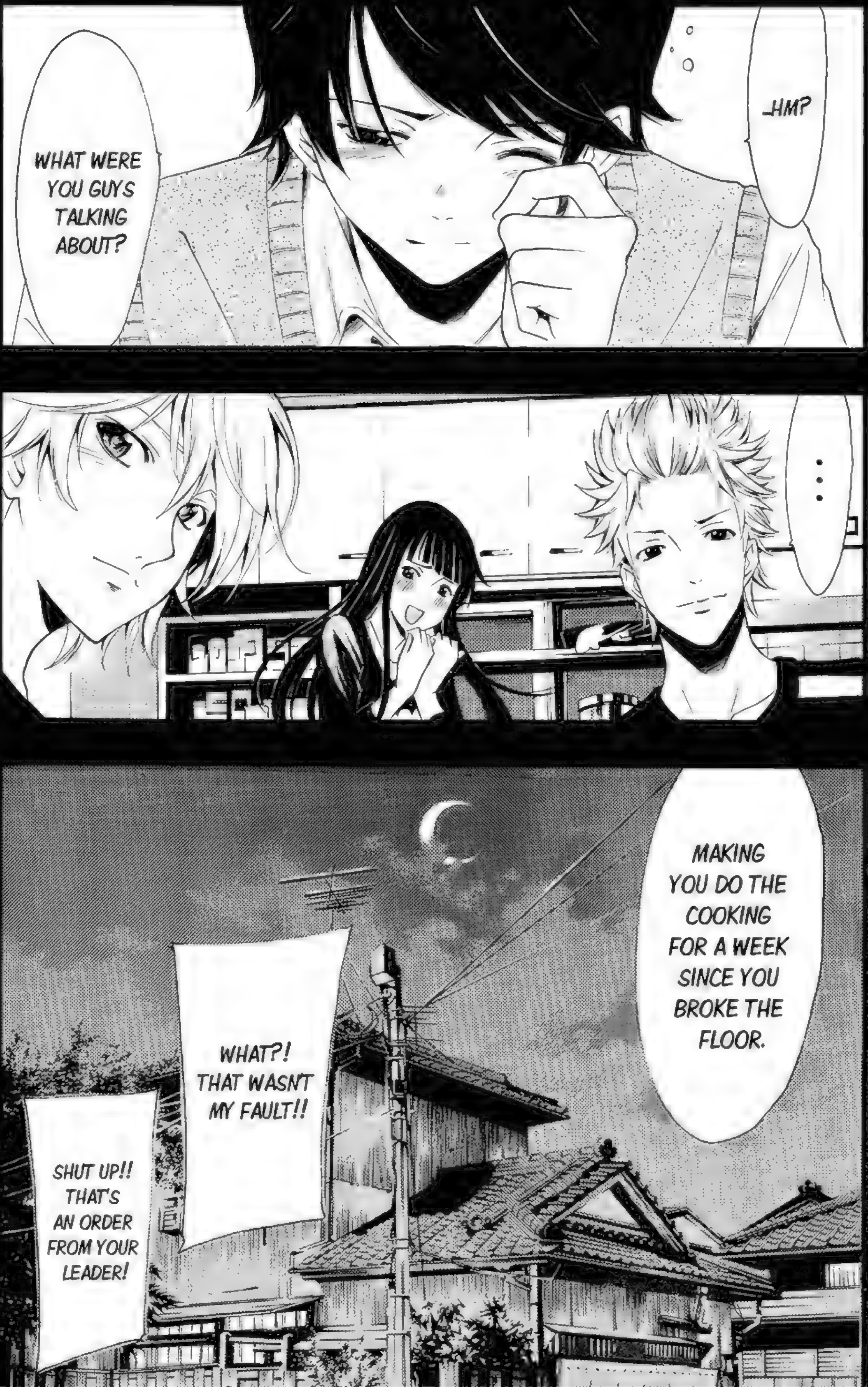

I'M...
...THINKING OF QUITTING SCHOOL!
IT FELT LIKE YUU-KUN WAS...
..TESTING US.
TESTING US?
カチャ
CLINK

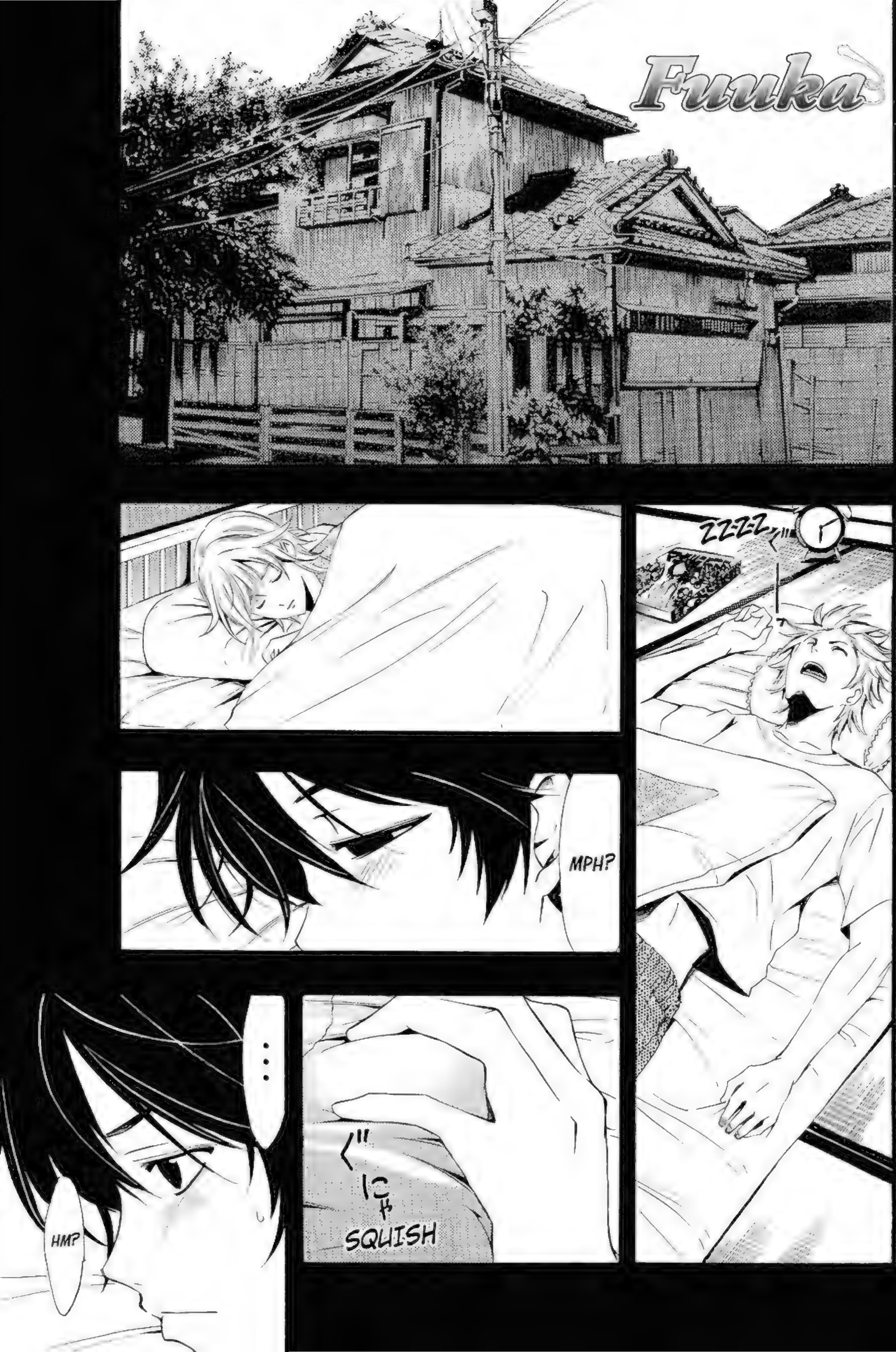

LIKE HE WAS SAYING, "ARE YOU GUYS REALLY TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY?"
"THEN SHOW ME"?
RIGHT.
...
I FELT LIKE THAT WAS WHAT HE WAS SAYING...
SO I RESOLVED MYSELF...
...AND DECIDED THAT I'D FOLLOW YUU-KUN WHEREVER HE WENT.
WHAT?
SO I WAS JUST AN AFTERTHOUGHT?!

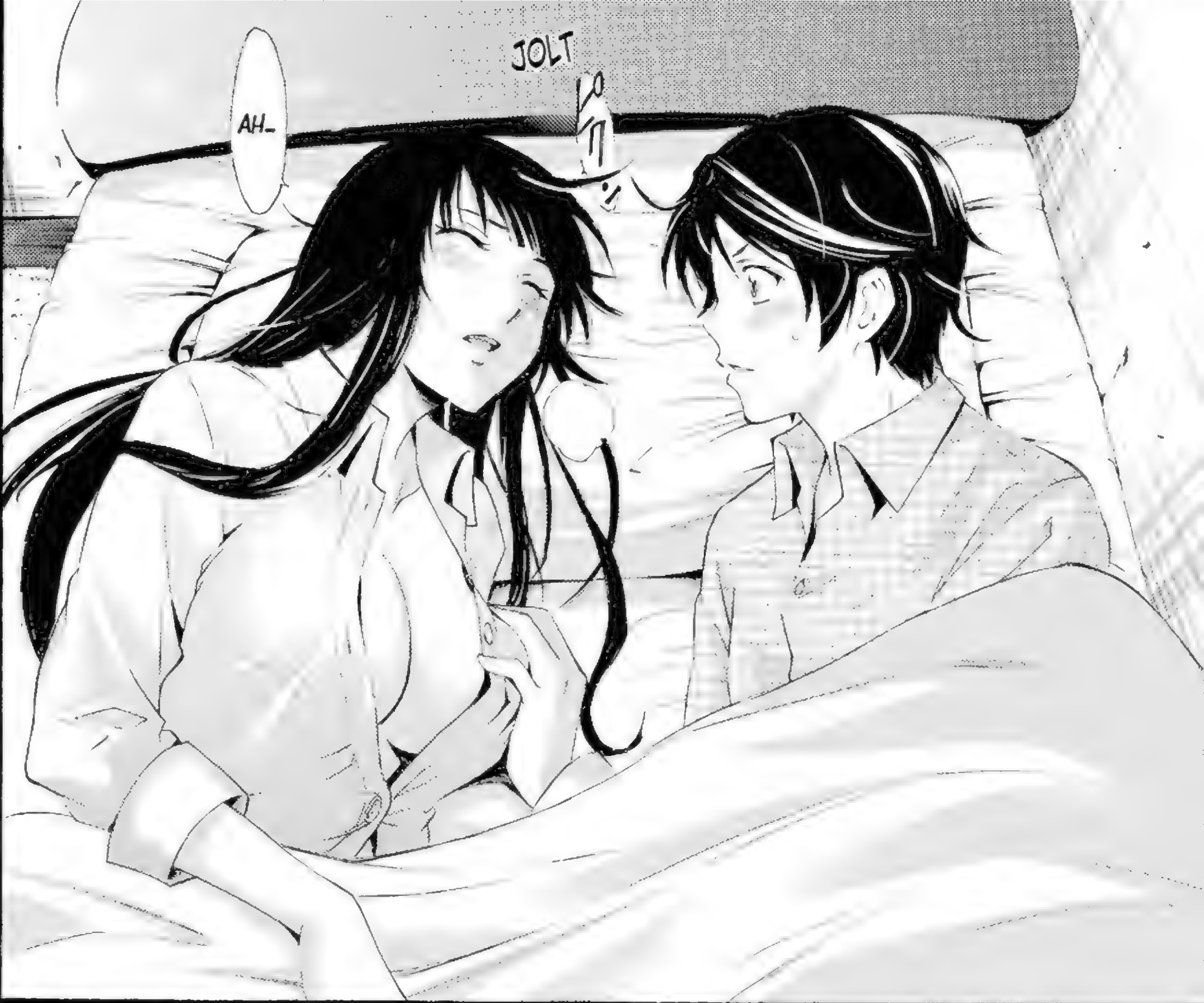

I NEVER SAID I WAS DOING IT FOR YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SURE, SURE, I GET IT.
EVER SINCE I REJOINED THE BAND WITH YUU-SAN...
MY MIND WAS ALREADY MADE UP.
...
WELL... IN THAT SENSE, SO WAS MINE, I GUESS.
HUH?
HE'S WORKING HARDER THAN ANY OF US...
...TO CARRY ON THE BAND AND THE DREAM THAT FUUKA STARTED.


SO I WANT TO MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR HIM.
THE DREAM OF HARUNA'S... THAT FUUKA CREATED.
TO DO THAT, I'VE GOTTA BE A STRONG LEADER.
I WOULDN'T BE VERY RELIABLE IF I LEFT EVERYTHING UP TO HIM.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SO GUNG-HO TODAY.
OH, SHUT UP.


I WON'T BE A CHEAPSKATE AND TALK ABOUT ONE OR TWO THOUSAND PEOPLE.
I'M GONNA THINK MUCH BIGGER AND TAKE HIM...
...TO AN EVEN HIGHER PLACE.
WE WILL BE...
...THE WINGS TO TAKE HIM THERE.
YEAH...
THERE'S A GOOD, STRONG WIND BLOWING, AFTER ALL.
IT'S GOING STRAIGHT UP.

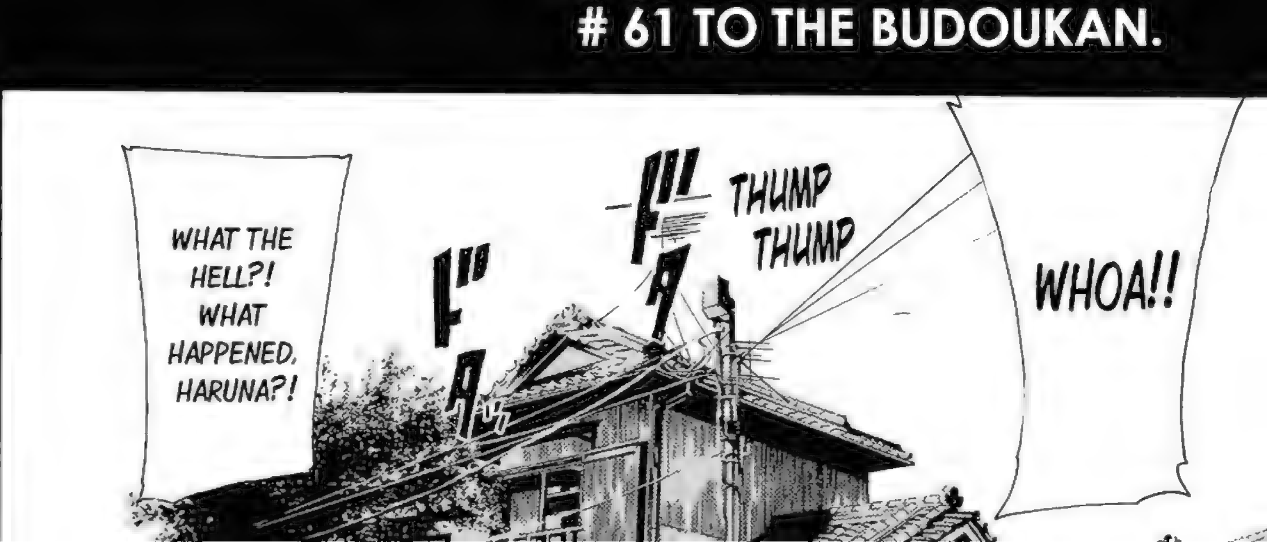

…HM?
WHAT WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
…
MAKING YOU DO THE COOKING FOR A WEEK SINCE YOU BROKE THE FLOOR.
WHAT?! THAT WASN'T MY FAULT!!
SHUT UP!! THAT'S AN ORDER FROM YOUR LEADER!

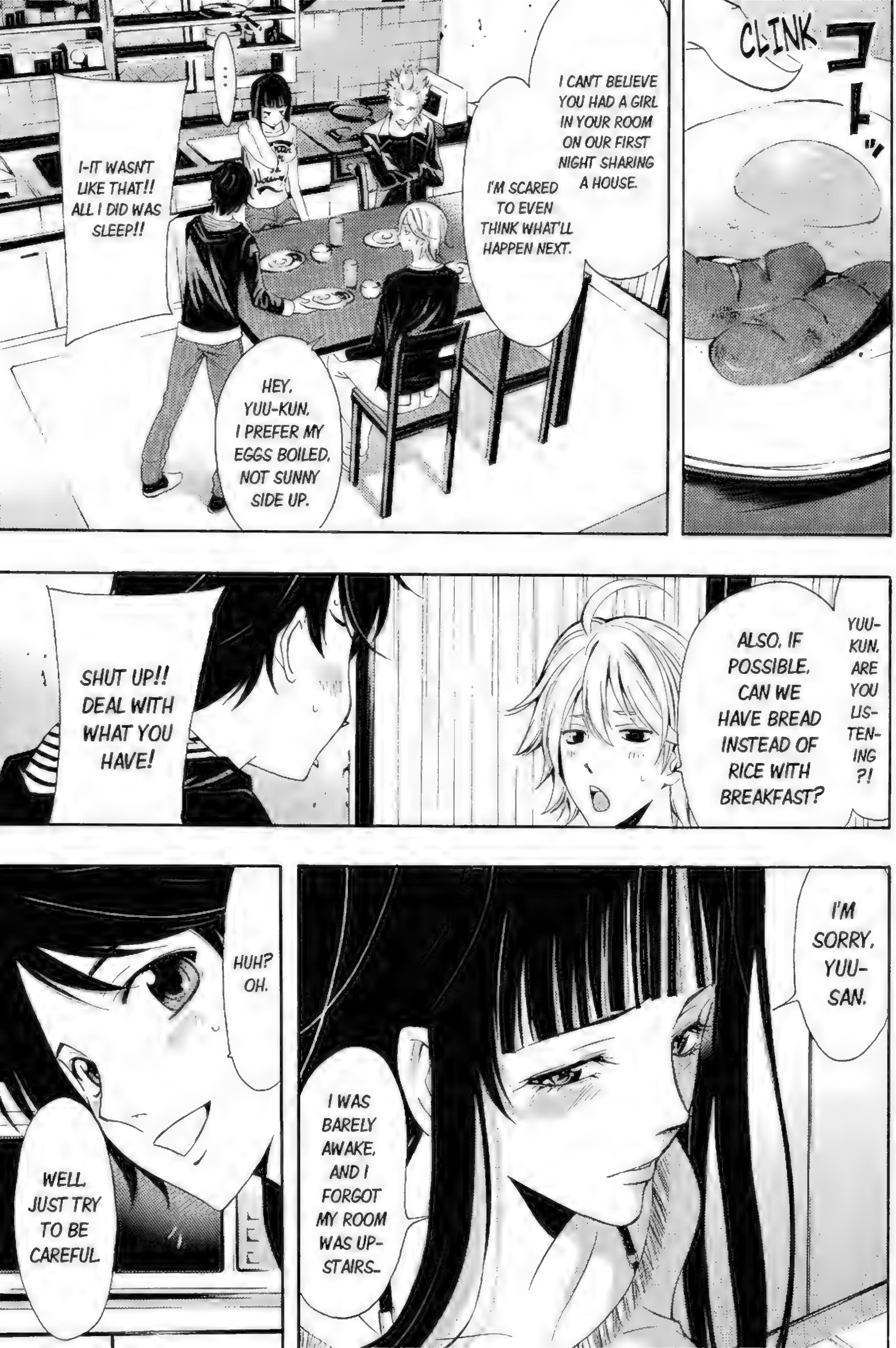

Fuuka
ZZ-Z-Z
MPH?
...
ぐにゃ
SQUISH
HM?

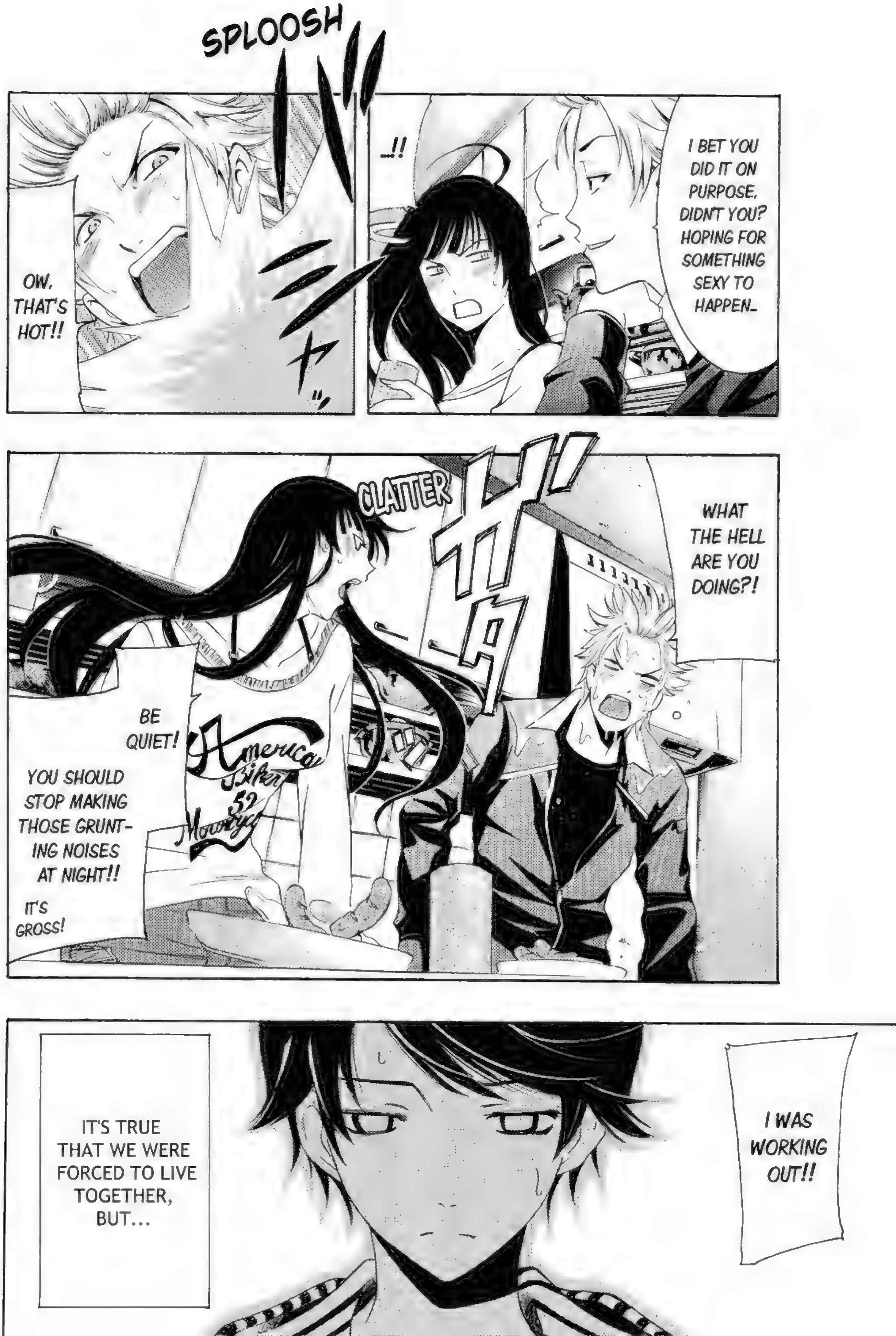


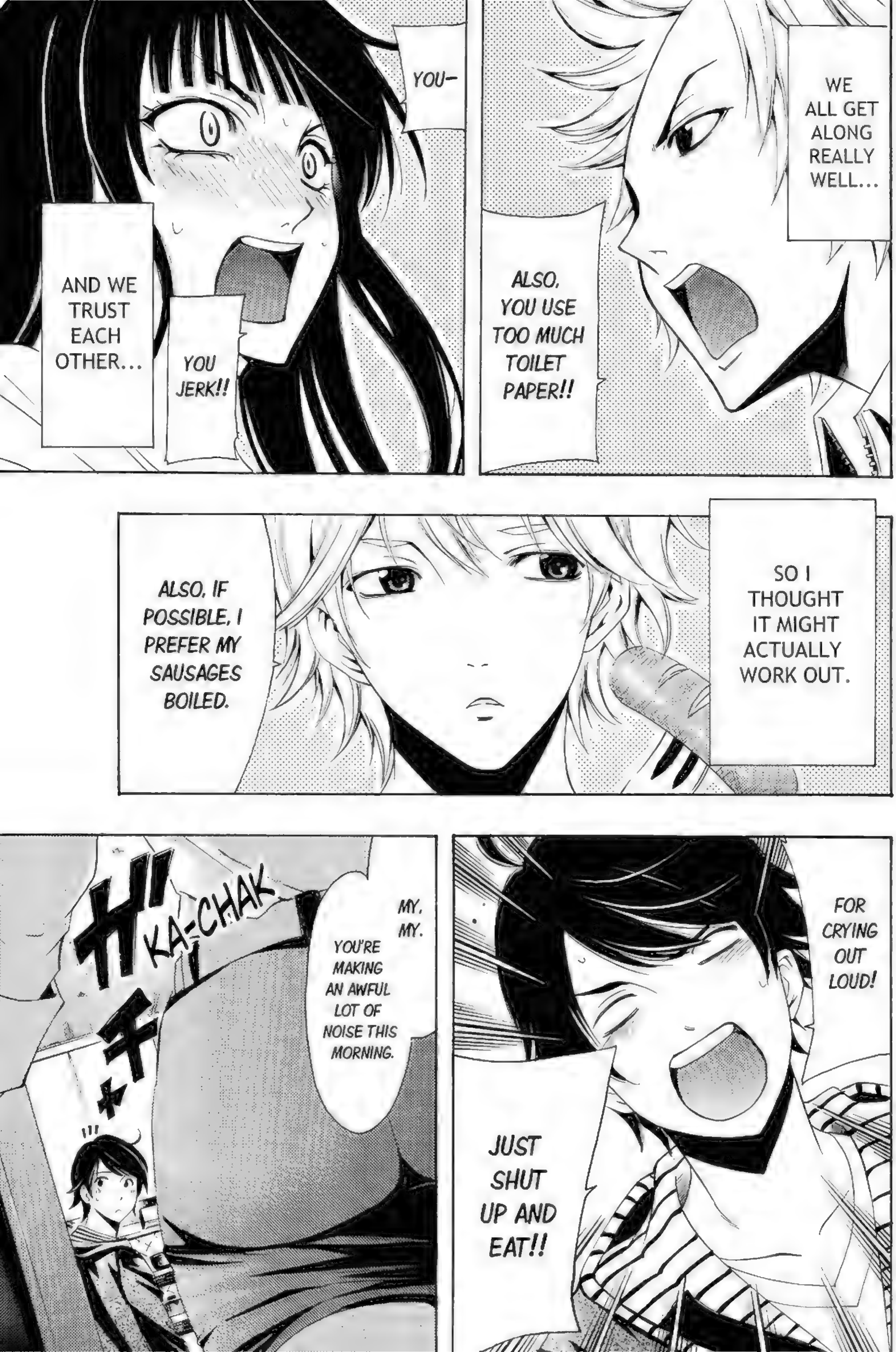
Fuuka

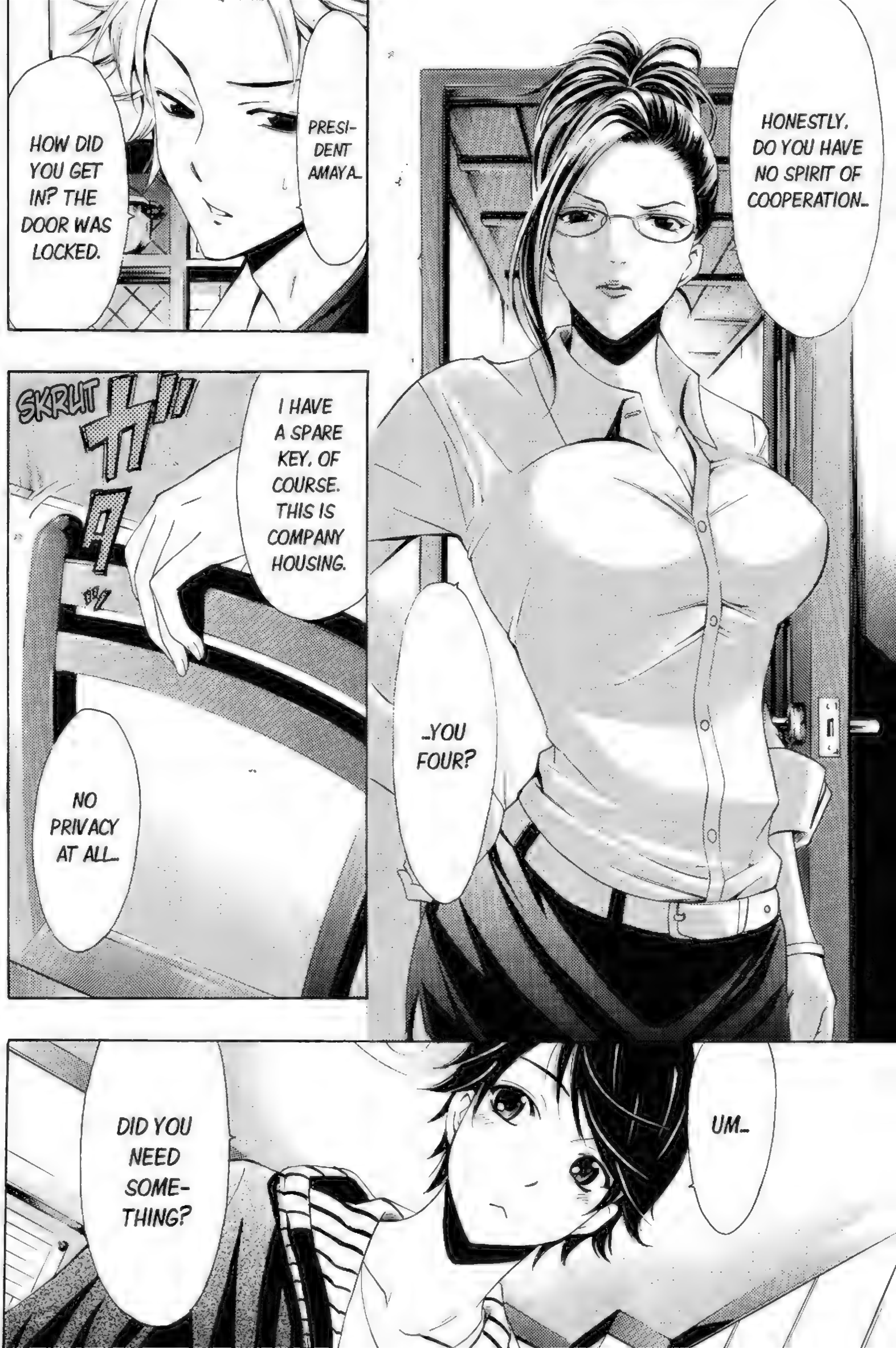
# 61 TO THE BUDOUKAN.

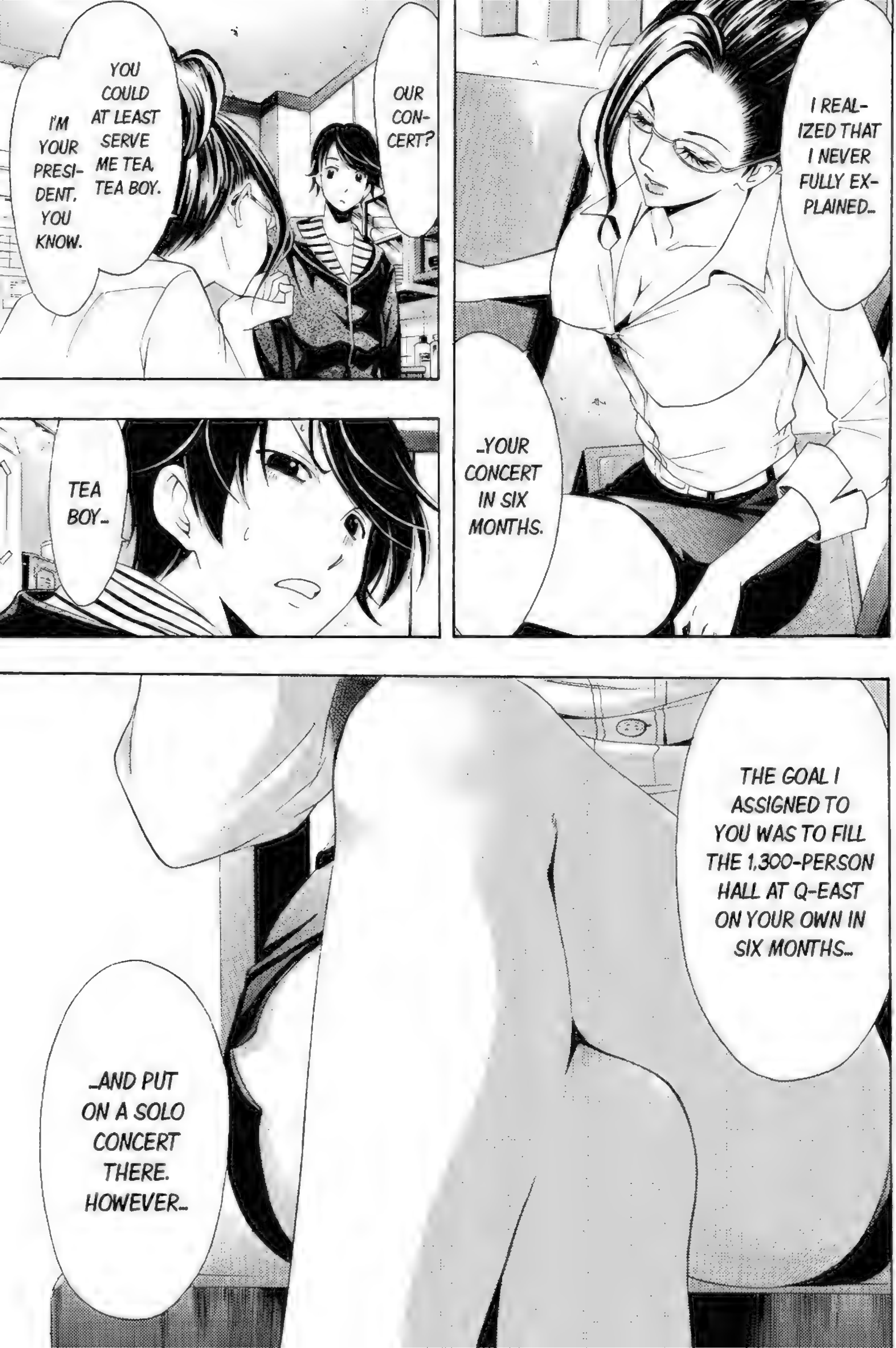

WHOA!!
THUMP THUMP
WHAT THE HELL?! WHAT HAPPENED, HARUNA?!

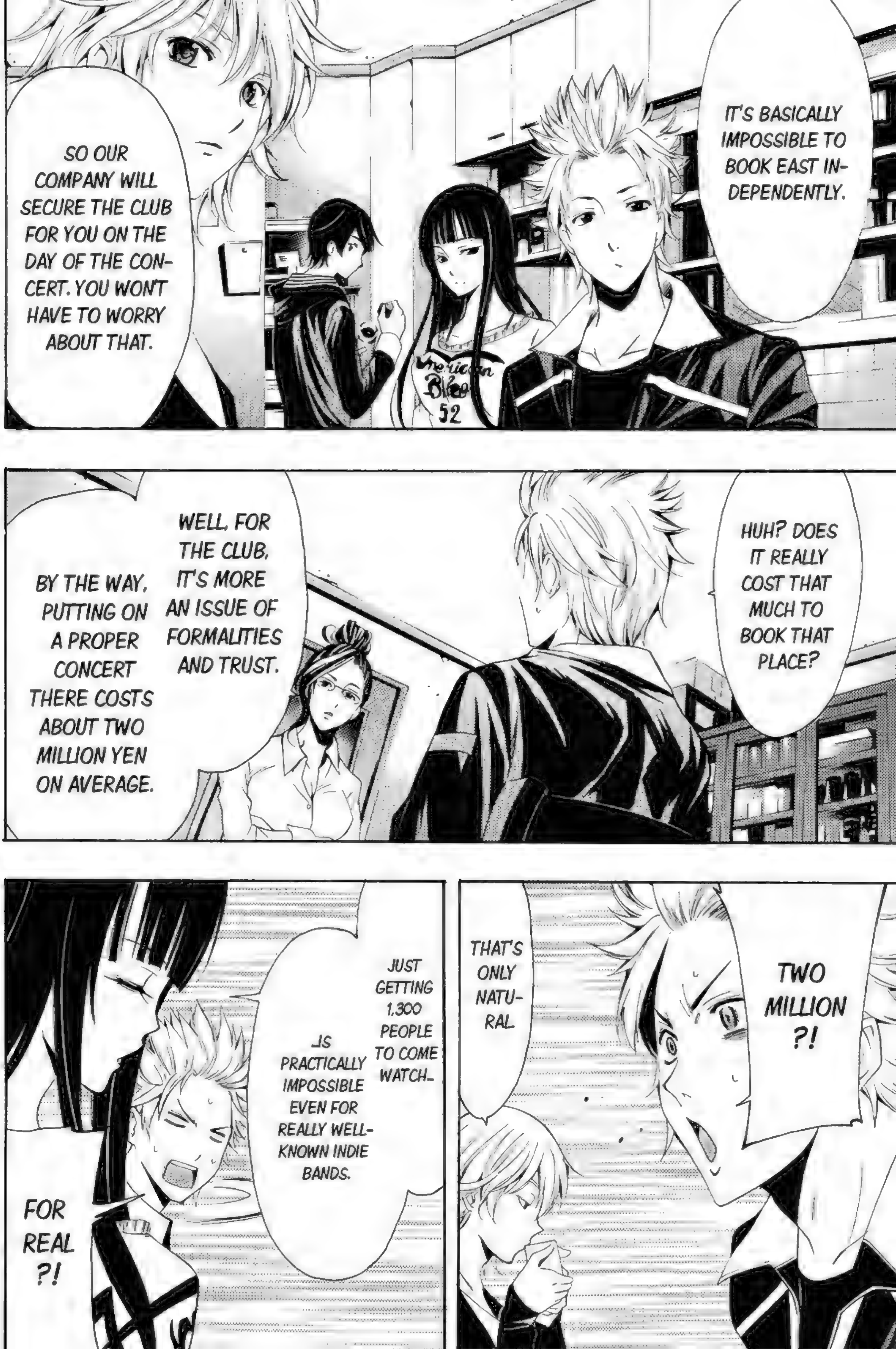

CLINK
コト"
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAD A GIRL IN YOUR ROOM ON OUR FIRST NIGHT SHARING A HOUSE.
I'M SCARED TO EVEN THINK WHAT'LL HAPPEN NEXT.
…
I-IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!! ALL I DID WAS SLEEP!!
HEY, YUU-KUN, I PREFER MY EGGS BOILED, NOT SUNNY SIDE UP.
YUU-KUN, ARE YOU LISTENING?!
ALSO, IF POSSIBLE, CAN WE HAVE BREAD INSTEAD OF RICE WITH BREAKFAST?
SHUT UP!! DEAL WITH WHAT YOU HAVE!
I'M SORRY, YUU-SAN.
I WAS BARELY AWAKE, AND I FORGOT MY ROOM WAS UPSTAIRS...
HUH? OH.
WELL, JUST TRY TO BE CAREFUL.

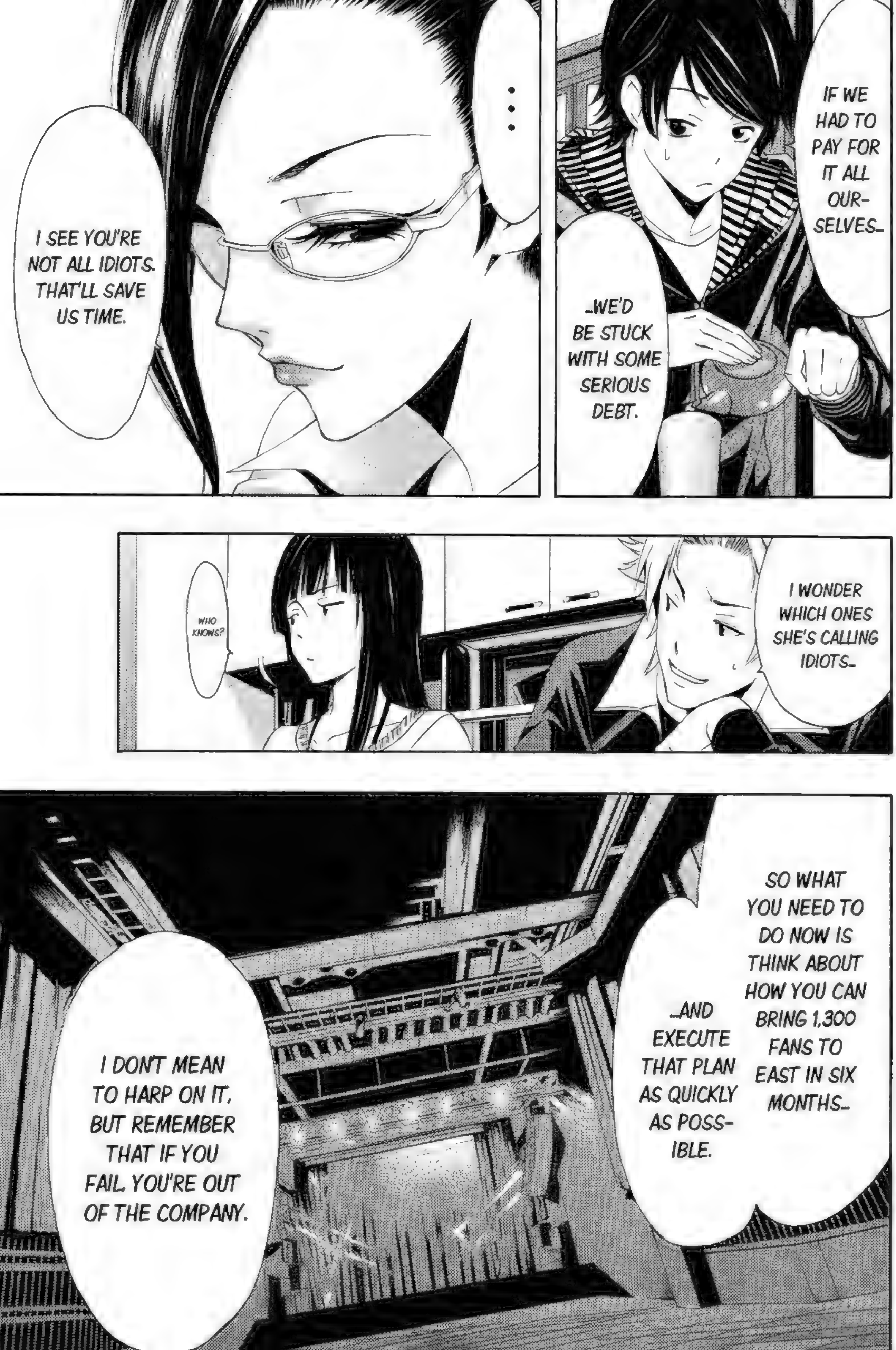

SPLOOSH
I BET YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU? HOPING FOR SOMETHING SEXY TO HAPPEN...
...!!
OW. THAT'S HOT!!
CLATTER
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
BE QUIET!
YOU SHOULD STOP MAKING THOSE GRUNTING NOISES AT NIGHT!!
IT'S GROSS!
I WAS WORKING OUT!!
IT'S TRUE THAT WE WERE FORCED TO LIVE TOGETHER, BUT...

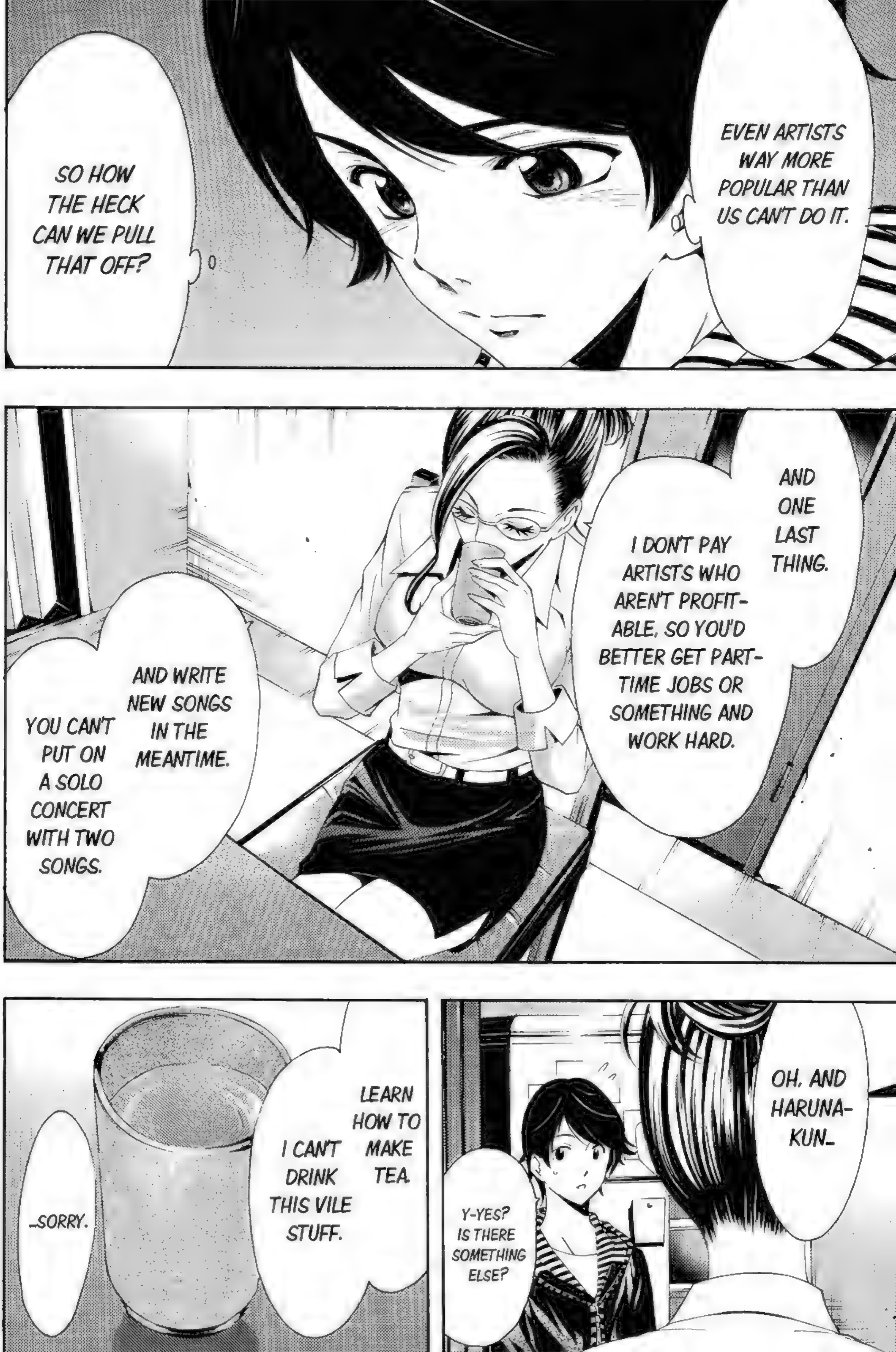

WE ALL GET ALONG REALLY WELL...
ALSO, YOU USE TOO MUCH TOILET PAPER!!
YOU-
YOU JERK!!
AND WE TRUST EACH OTHER...
SO I THOUGHT IT MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK OUT.
ALSO, IF POSSIBLE, I PREFER MY SAUSAGES BOILED.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
JUST SHUT UP AND EAT!!
ガチャ
KA-CHAK
MY, MY.
YOU'RE MAKING AN AWFUL LOT OF NOISE THIS MORNING.

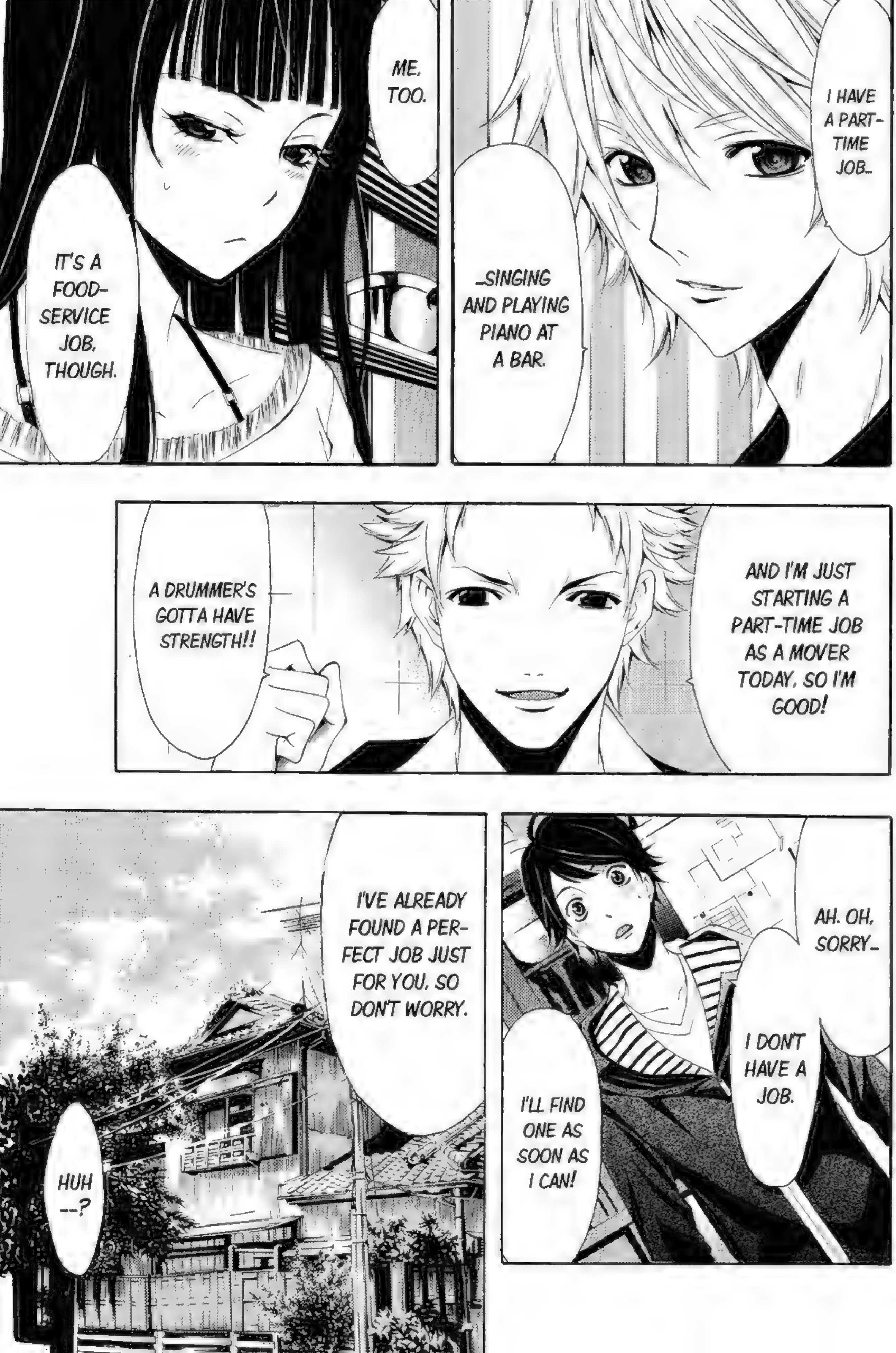

HONESTLY, DO YOU HAVE NO SPIRIT OF COOPERATION...
...YOU FOUR?
PRESIDENT AMAYA...
HOW DID YOU GET IN? THE DOOR WAS LOCKED.
SKRUT
I HAVE A SPARE KEY, OF COURSE. THIS IS COMPANY HOUSING.
NO PRIVACY AT ALL...
UM...
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?

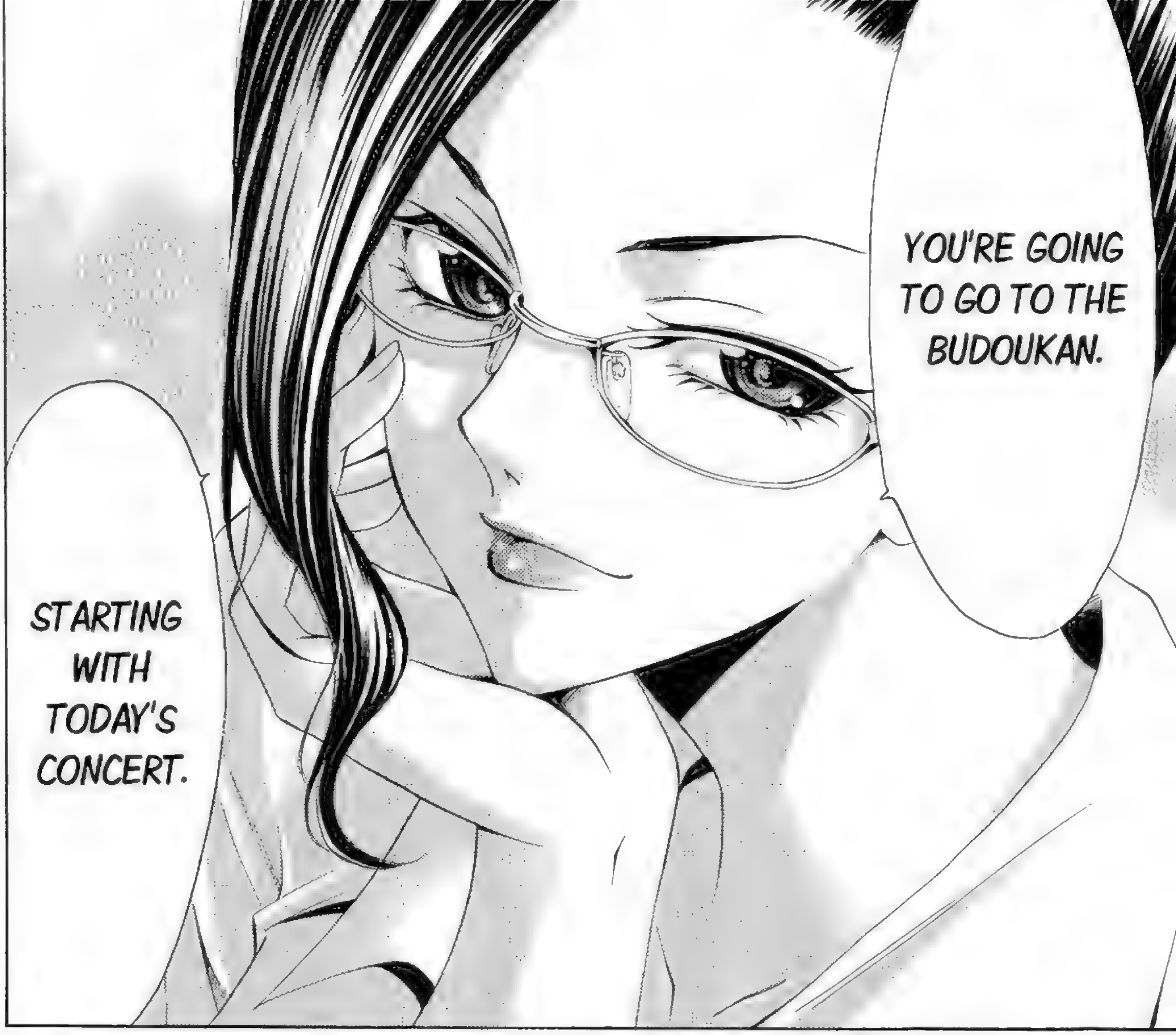

I REALIZED THAT I NEVER FULLY EXPLAINED...
...YOUR CONCERT IN SIX MONTHS.
OUR CONCERT?
YOU COULD AT LEAST SERVE ME TEA, TEA BOY.
I'M YOUR PRESIDENT, YOU KNOW.
TEA BOY...
THE GOAL I ASSIGNED TO YOU WAS TO FILL THE 1,300-PERSON HALL AT Q-EAST ON YOUR OWN IN SIX MONTHS...
...AND PUT ON A SOLO CONCERT THERE. HOWEVER...

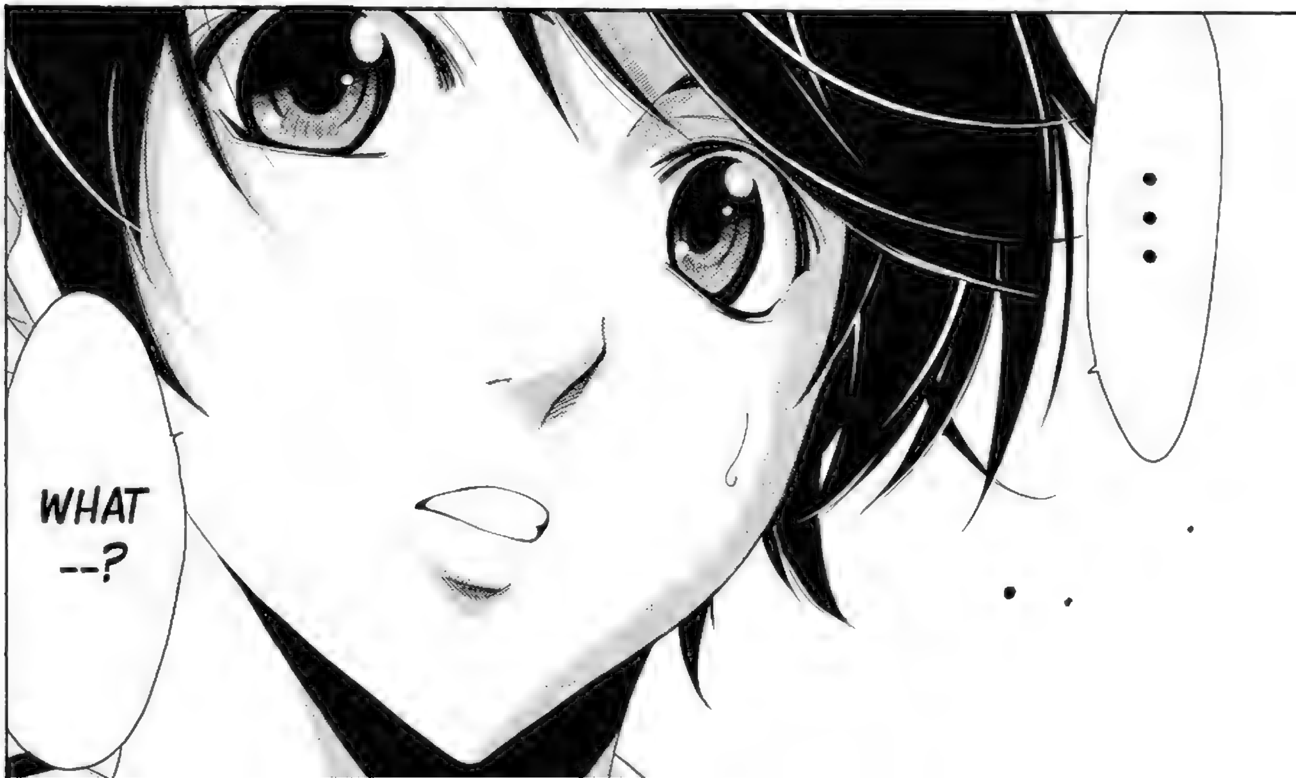

IT'S BASICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO BOOK EAST INDEPENDENTLY.
SO OUR COMPANY WILL SECURE THE CLUB FOR YOU ON THE DAY OF THE CONCERT. YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
HUH? DOES IT REALLY COST THAT MUCH TO BOOK THAT PLACE?
WELL, FOR THE CLUB, IT'S MORE AN ISSUE OF FORMALITIES AND TRUST.
BY THE WAY, PUTTING ON A PROPER CONCERT THERE COSTS ABOUT TWO MILLION YEN ON AVERAGE.
TWO MILLION?!
THAT'S ONLY NATURAL.
JUST GETTING 1,300 PEOPLE TO COME WATCH…
…IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE EVEN FOR REALLY WELL-KNOWN INDIE BANDS.
FOR REAL?!

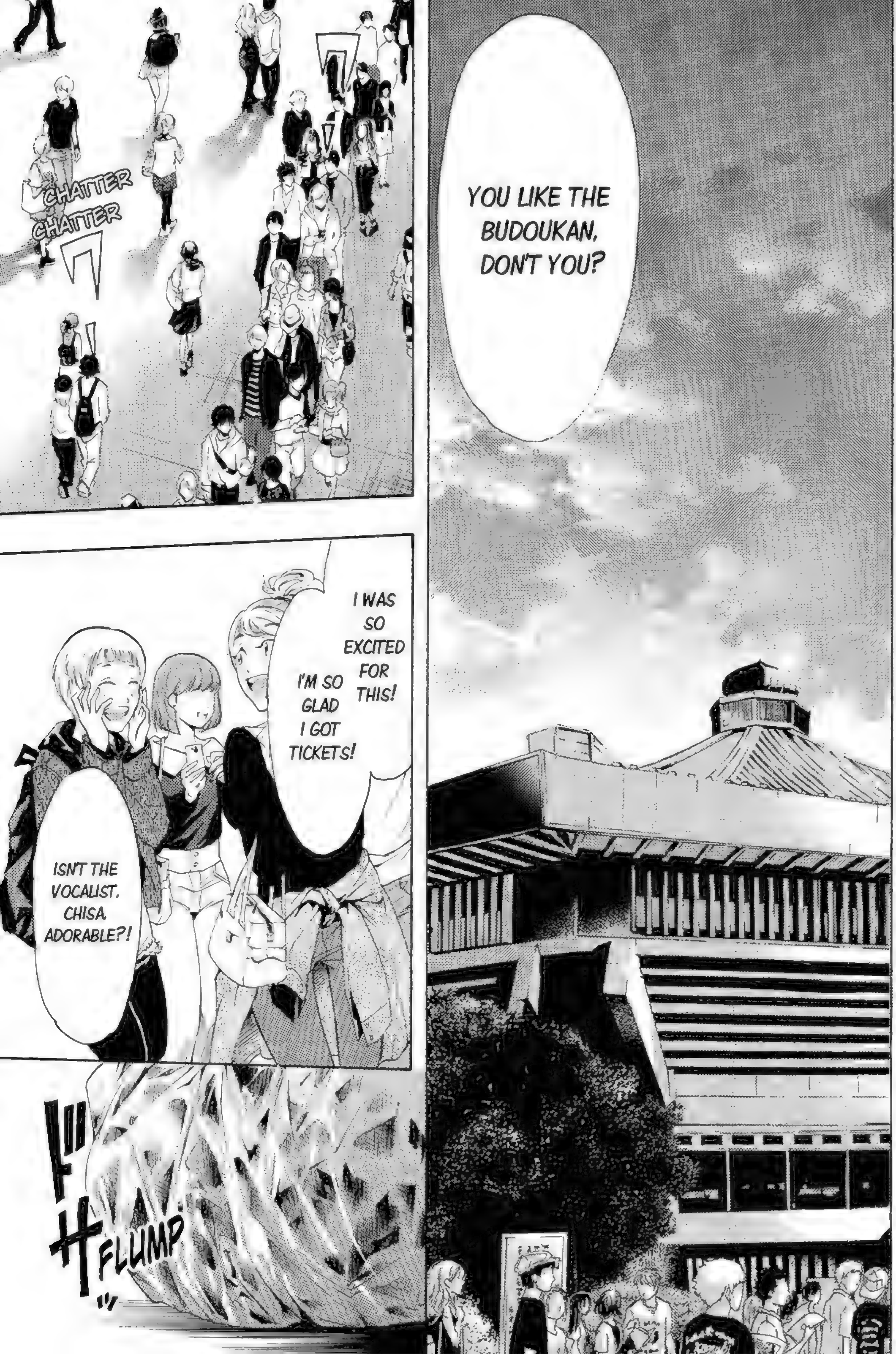

IF WE HAD TO PAY FOR IT ALL OURSELVES...
...WE'D BE STUCK WITH SOME SERIOUS DEBT.
...
I SEE YOU'RE NOT ALL IDIOTS. THAT'LL SAVE US TIME.
I WONDER WHICH ONES SHE'S CALLING IDIOTS...
WHO KNOWS?
SO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW IS THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN BRING 1,300 FANS TO EAST IN SIX MONTHS...
...AND EXECUTE THAT PLAN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
I DONT MEAN TO HARP ON IT, BUT REMEMBER THAT IF YOU FAIL, YOU'RE OUT OF THE COMPANY.

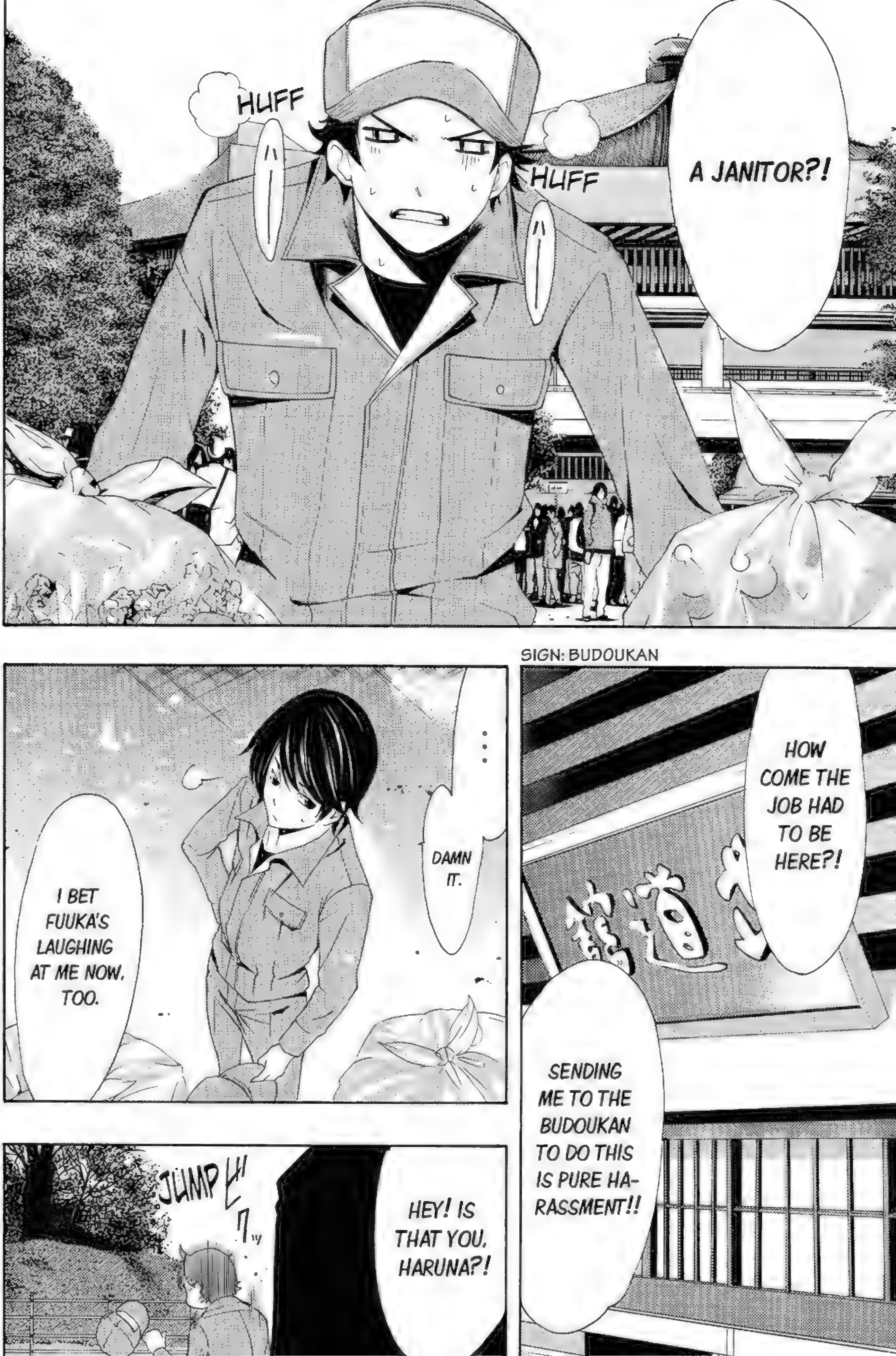

EVEN ARTISTS WAY MORE POPULAR THAN US CAN'T DO IT.
SO HOW THE HECK CAN WE PULL THAT OFF?
AND ONE LAST THING.
I DON'T PAY ARTISTS WHO AREN'T PROFITABLE, SO YOU'D BETTER GET PART-TIME JOBS OR SOMETHING AND WORK HARD.
AND WRITE NEW SONGS IN THE MEANTIME.
YOU CAN'T PUT ON A SOLO CONCERT WITH TWO SONGS.
OH, AND HARUNA-KUN...
Y-YES? IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE?
LEARN HOW TO MAKE TEA.
I CAN'T DRINK THIS VILE STUFF.
...SORRY.

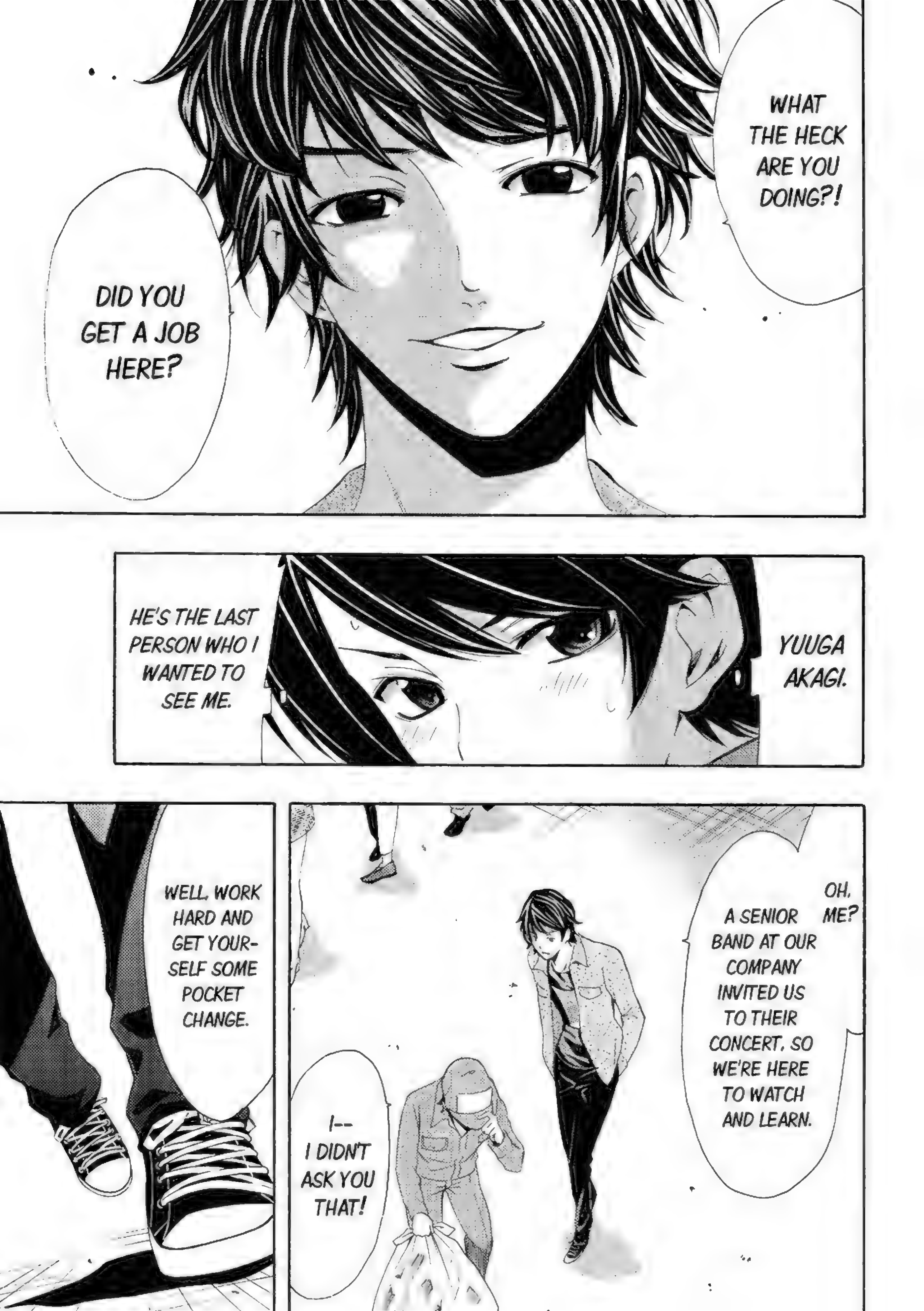

I HAVE A PART-TIME JOB...
...SINGING AND PLAYING PIANO AT A BAR.
ME, TOO.
IT'S A FOOD-SERVICE JOB, THOUGH.
AND I'M JUST STARTING A PART-TIME JOB AS A MOVER TODAY, SO I'M GOOD!
A DRUMMER'S GOTTA HAVE STRENGTH!!
AH. OH, SORRY...
I DON'T HAVE A JOB.
I'LL FIND ONE AS SOON AS I CAN!
I'VE ALREADY FOUND A PERFECT JOB JUST FOR YOU, SO DON'T WORRY.
HUH--?

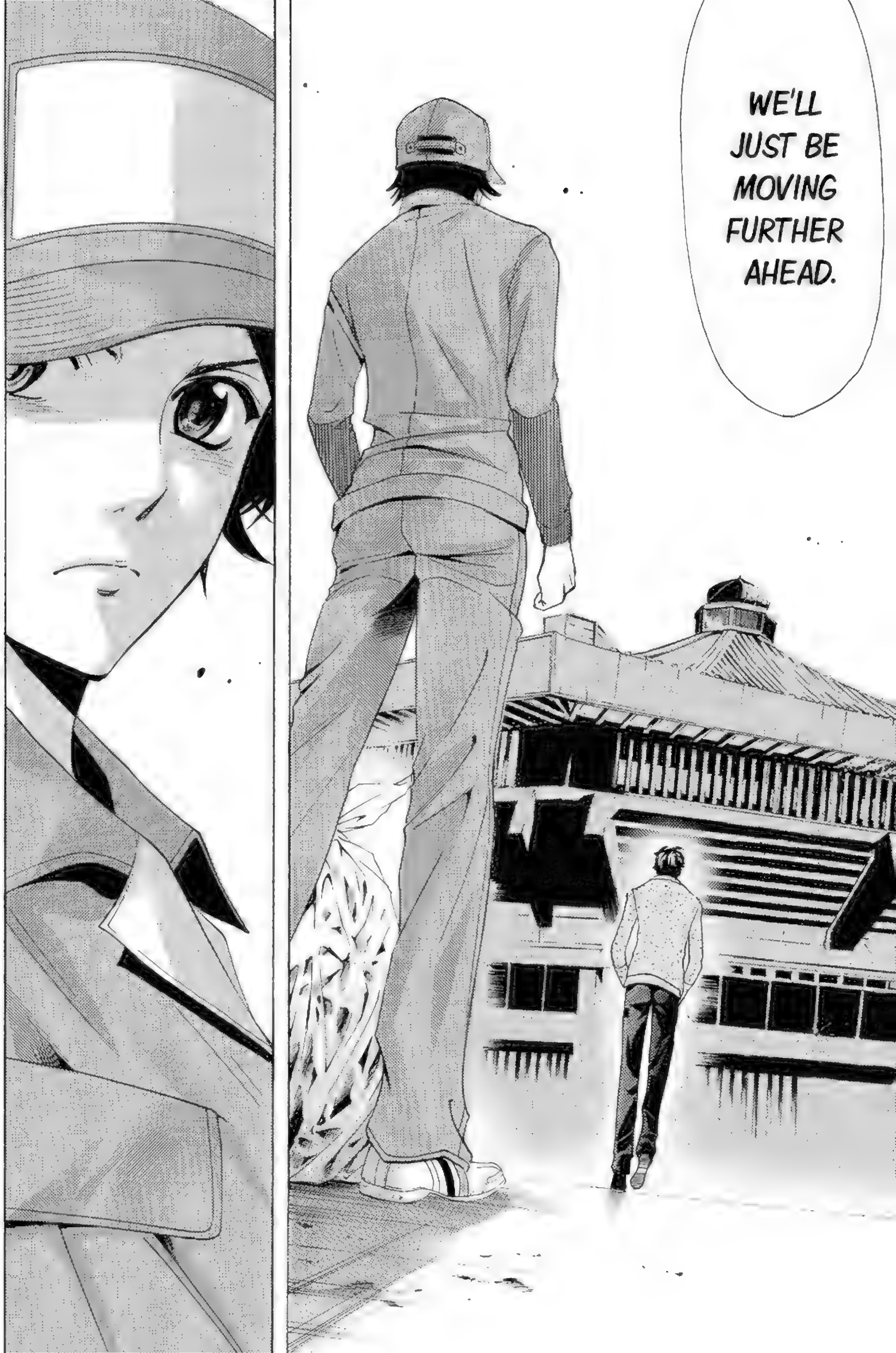

YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO THE BUDOUKAN.
STARTING WITH TODAY'S CONCERT.

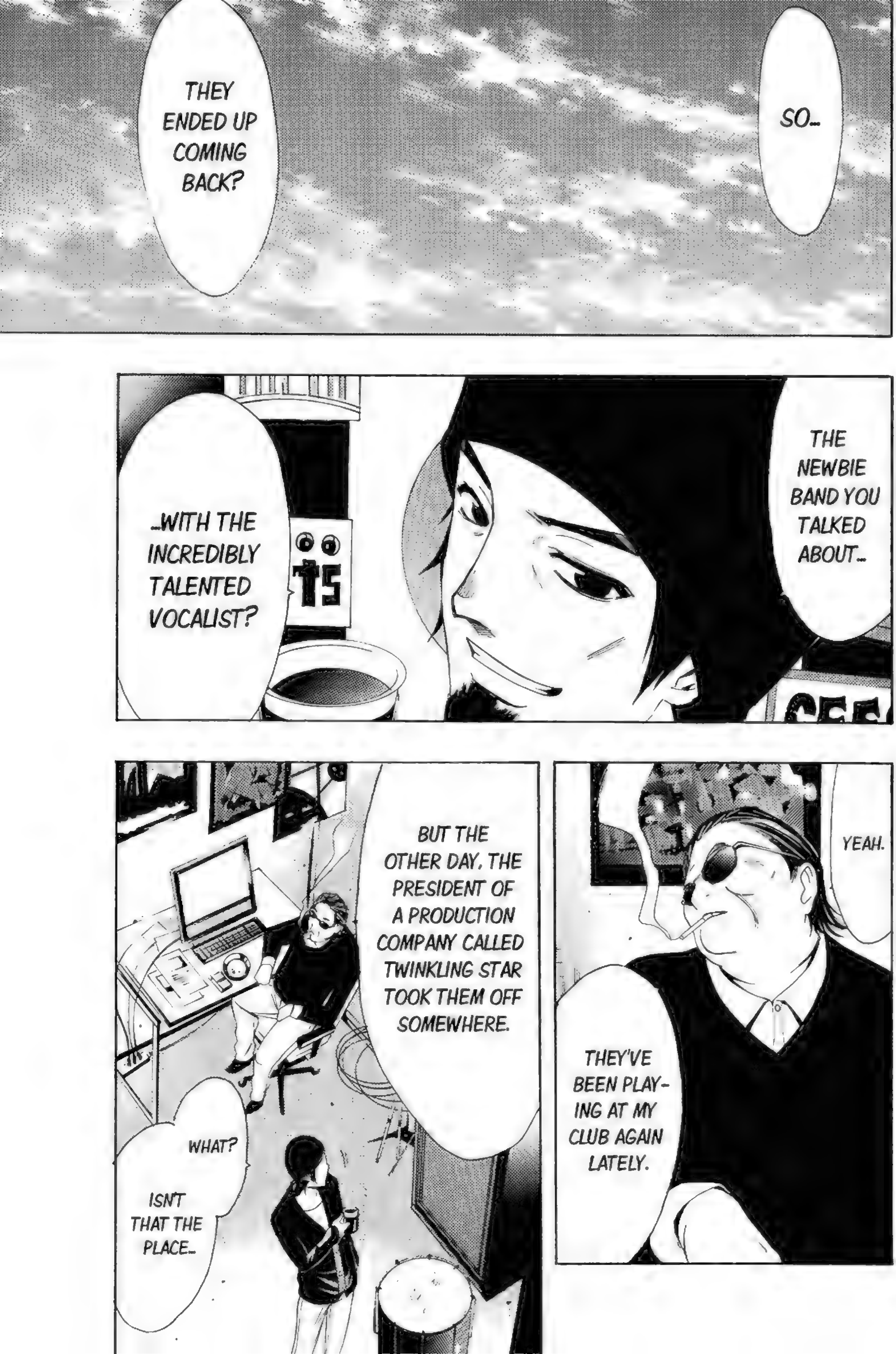

...
WHAT --?

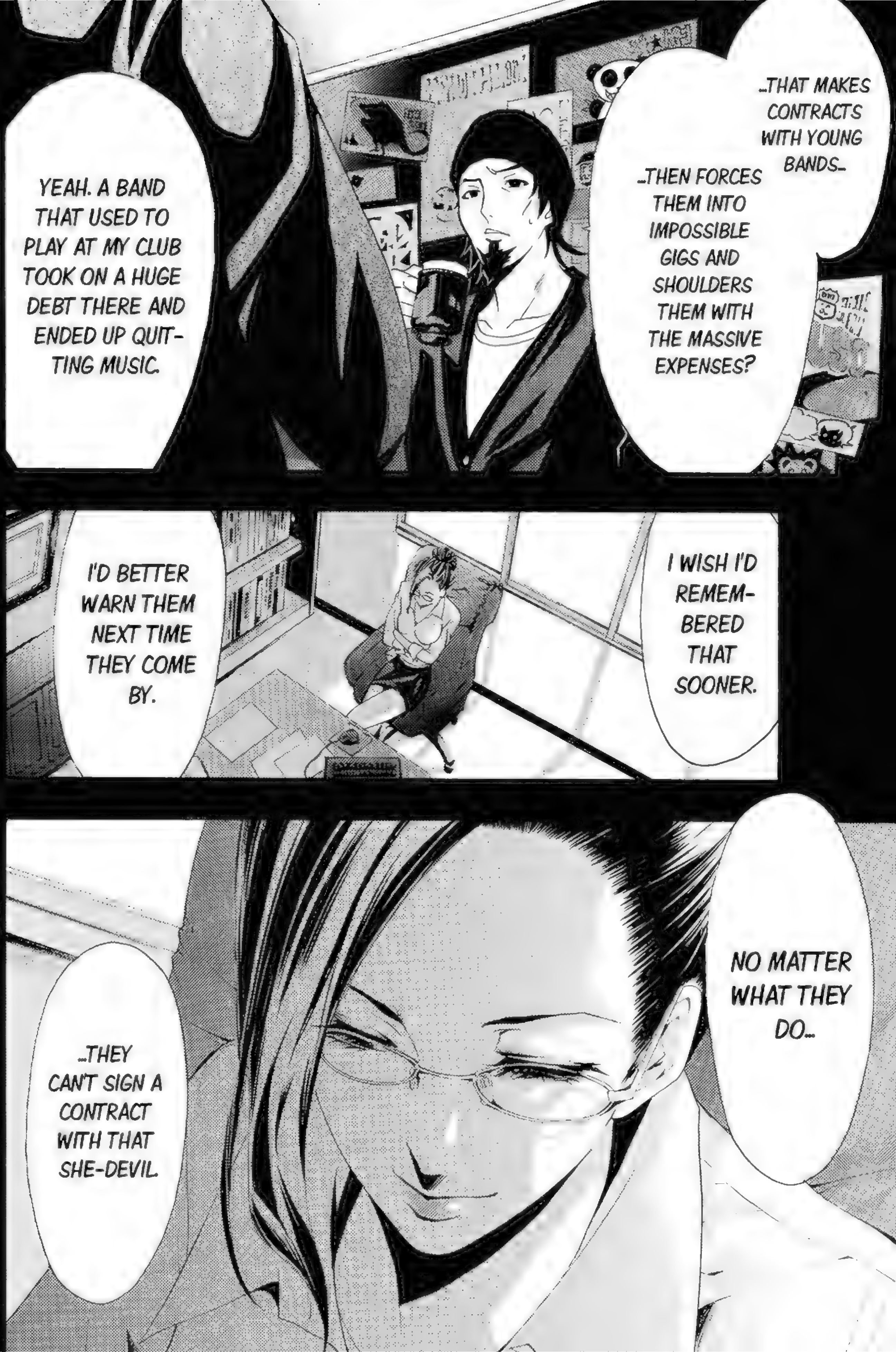

YOU LIKE THE BUDOUKAN, DON'T YOU?
CHATTER
CHATTER
I WAS SO EXCITED FOR THIS!
I'M SO GLAD I GOT TICKETS!
ISN'T THE VOCALIST, CHISA, ADORABLE?!
FLUMP

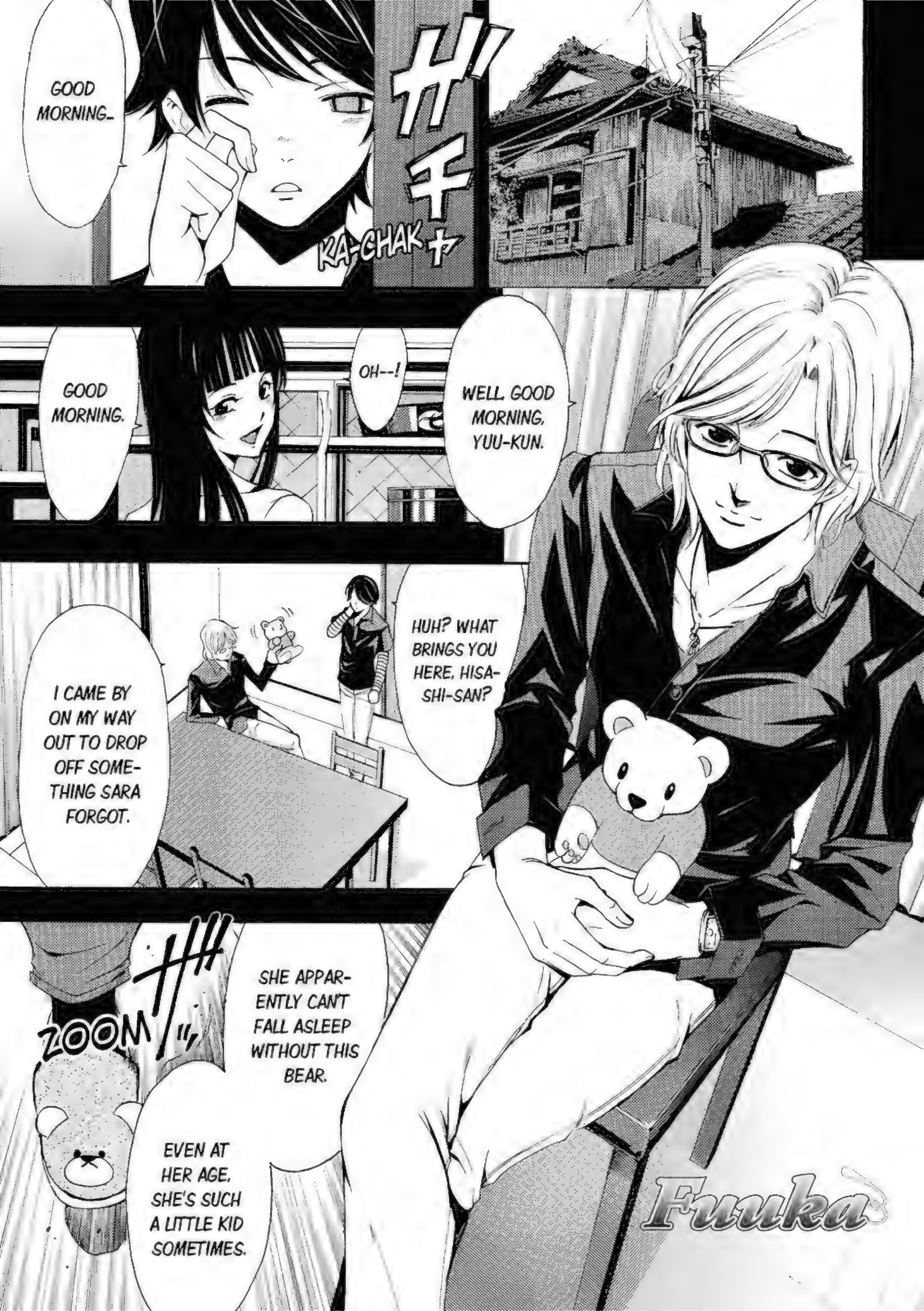

A JANITOR?!
HUFF
HUFF
SIGN: BUDOUKAN
HOW COME THE JOB HAD TO BE HERE?!
SENDING ME TO THE BUDOUKAN TO DO THIS IS PURE HARASSMENT!!
...
DAMN IT.
I BET FUUKA'S LAUGHING AT ME NOW, TOO.
HEY! IS THAT YOU, HARUNA?!
JUMP

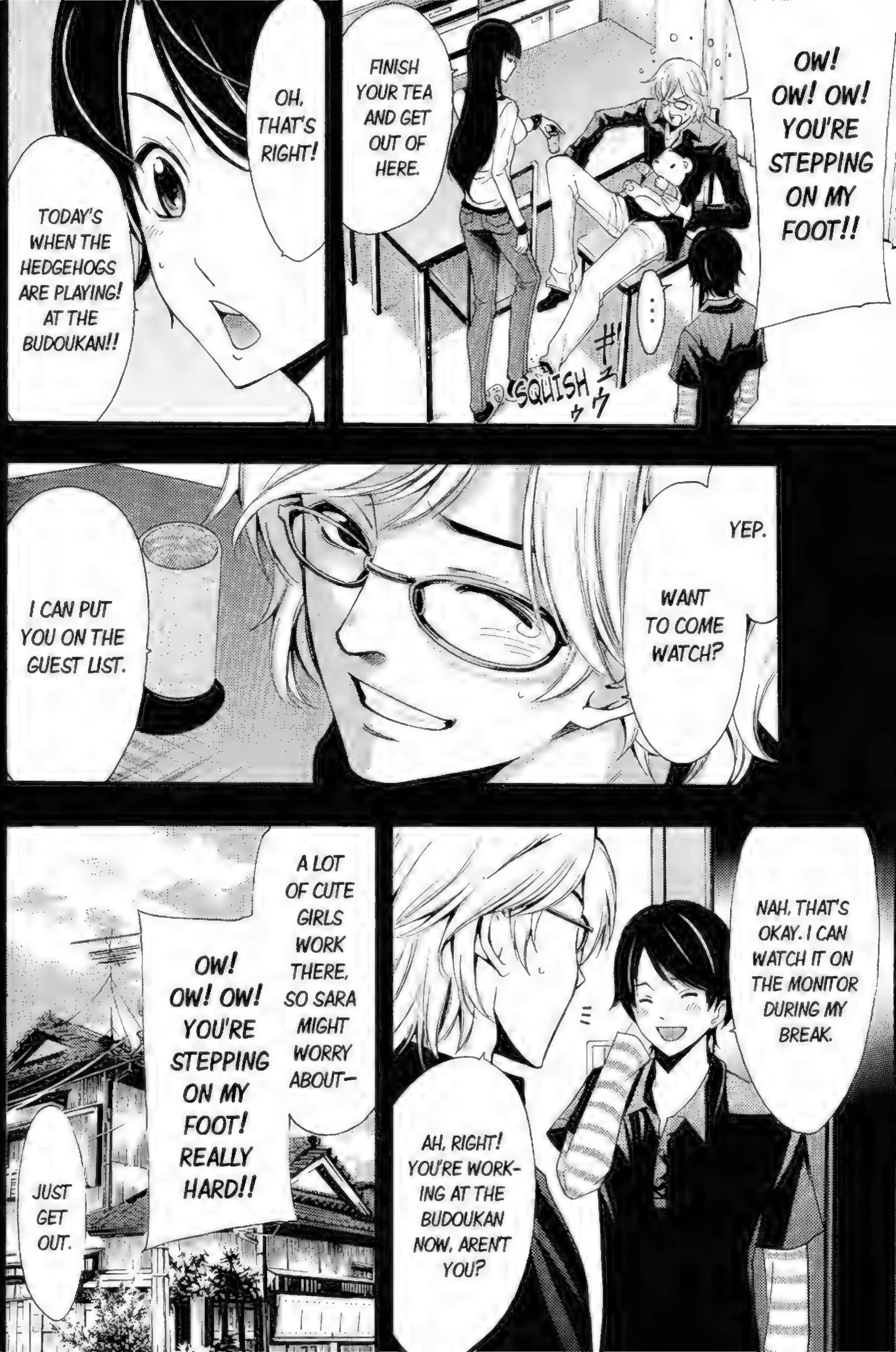

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?!
DID YOU GET A JOB HERE?
YUUGA AKAGI.
HE'S THE LAST PERSON WHO I WANTED TO SEE ME.
OH, ME?
A SENIOR BAND AT OUR COMPANY INVITED US TO THEIR CONCERT, SO WE'RE HERE TO WATCH AND LEARN.
I-- I DIDN'T ASK YOU THAT!
WELL, WORK HARD AND GET YOURSELF SOME POCKET CHANGE.

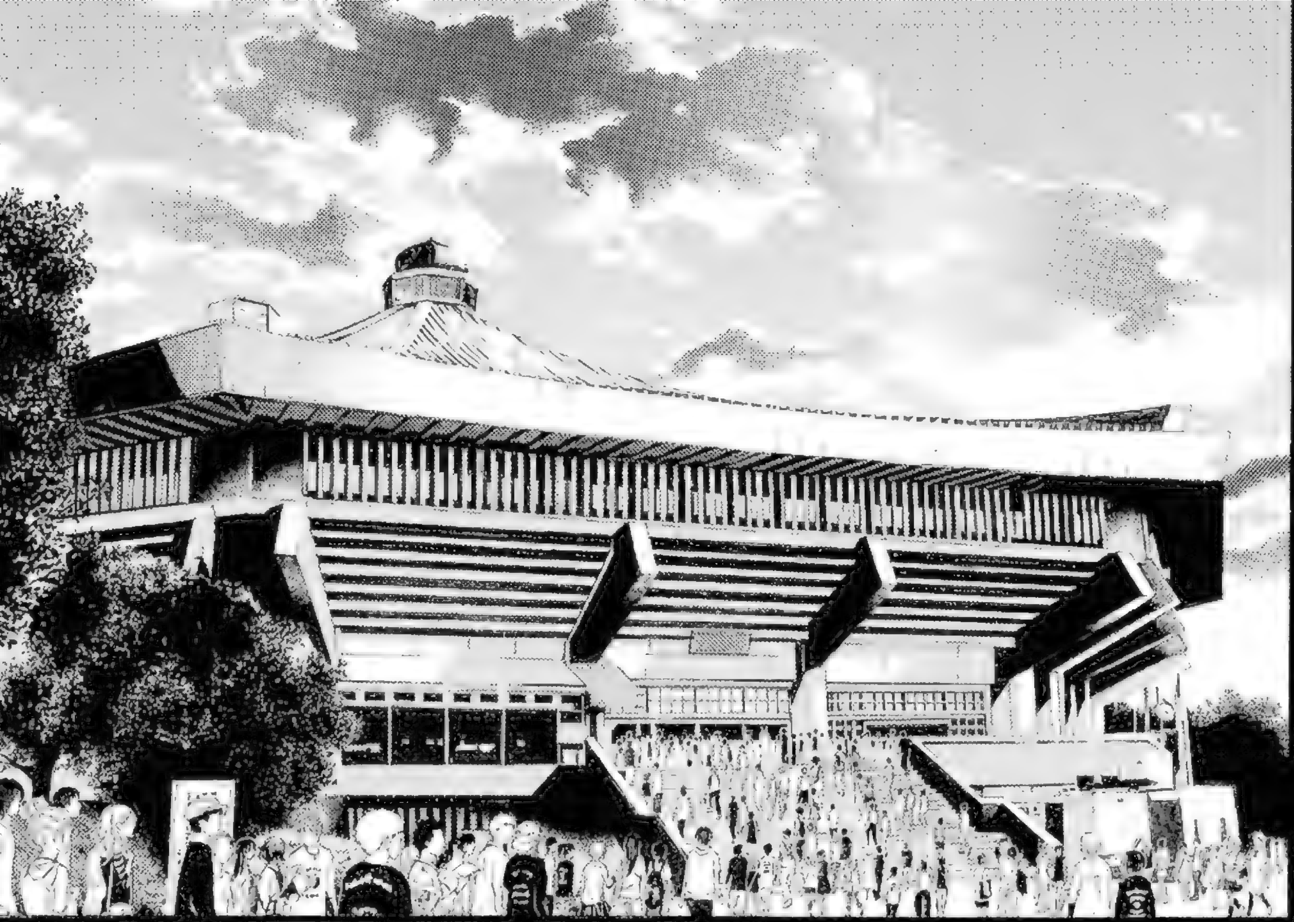

WE'LL JUST BE MOVING FURTHER AHEAD.


SO...
THEY ENDED UP COMING BACK?
THE NEWBIE BAND YOU TALKED ABOUT...
...WITH THE INCREDIBLY TALENTED VOCALIST?
YEAH.
THEY'VE BEEN PLAYING AT MY CLUB AGAIN LATELY.
BUT THE OTHER DAY, THE PRESIDENT OF A PRODUCTION COMPANY CALLED TWINKLING STAR TOOK THEM OFF SOMEWHERE.
WHAT?
ISN'T THAT THE PLACE...


...THAT MAKES CONTRACTS WITH YOUNG BANDS...
...THEN FORCES THEM INTO IMPOSSIBLE GIGS AND SHOULDERS THEM WITH THE MASSIVE EXPENSES?
YEAH. A BAND THAT USED TO PLAY AT MY CLUB TOOK ON A HUGE DEBT THERE AND ENDED UP QUITTING MUSIC.
I WISH I'D REMEMBERED THAT SOONER.
I'D BETTER WARN THEM NEXT TIME THEY COME BY.
NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO...
...THEY CAN'T SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THAT SHE-DEVIL.


ガチ
KA-CHAK
GOOD MORNING..
WELL. GOOD MORNING, YUU-KUN.
OH--!
GOOD MORNING.
HUH? WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, HISA-SHI-SAN?
I CAME BY ON MY WAY OUT TO DROP OFF SOMETHING SARA FORGOT.
SHE APPARENTLY CAN'T FALL ASLEEP WITHOUT THIS BEAR.
EVEN AT HER AGE, SHE'S SUCH A LITTLE KID SOMETIMES.
ZOOM
Fuuka

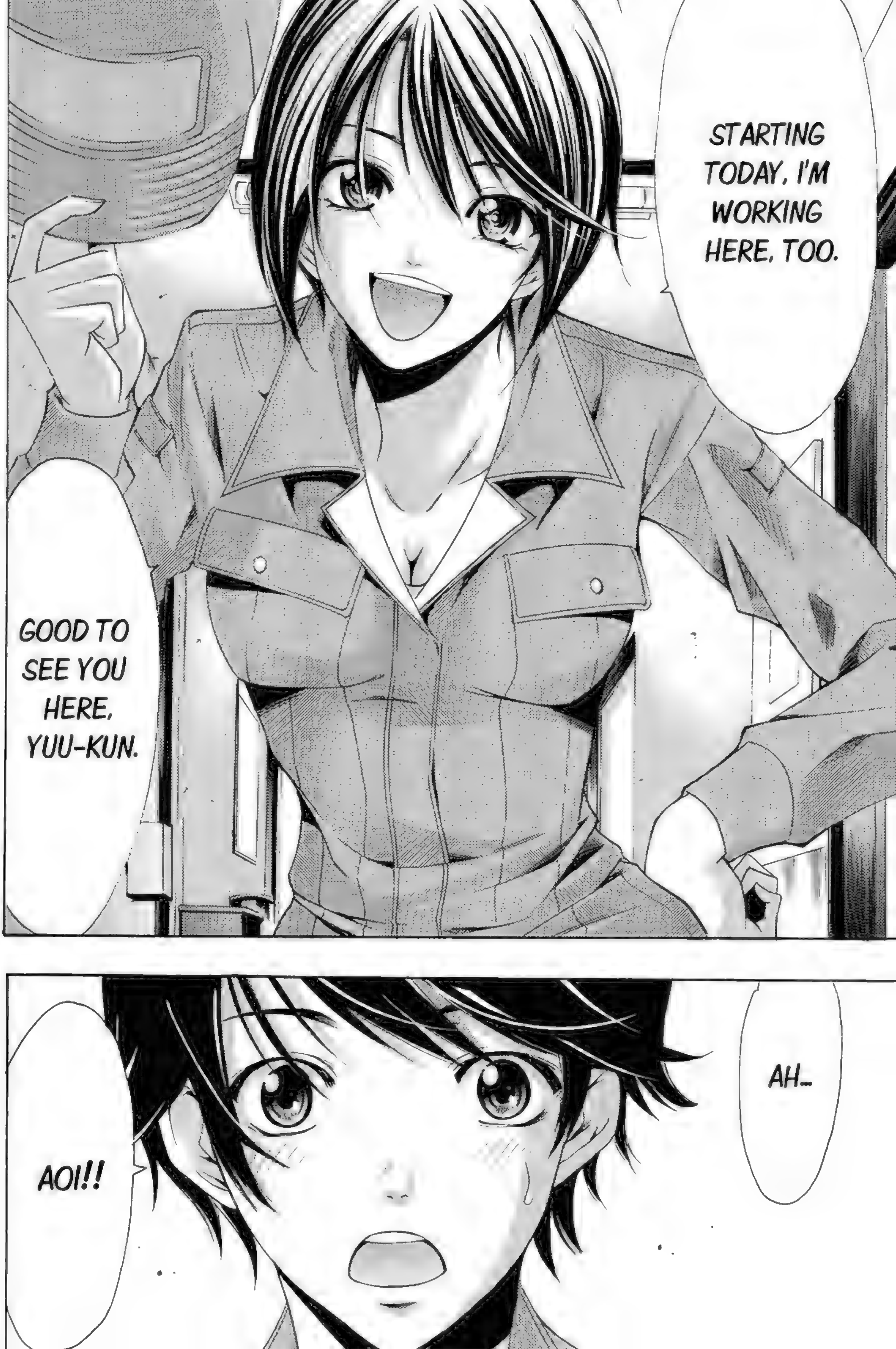

OW! OW! OW! YOU'RE STEPPING ON MY FOOT!!
FINISH YOUR TEA AND GET OUT OF HERE.
...
SQUISH
ギュウ
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
TODAY'S WHEN THE HEDGEHOGS ARE PLAYING! AT THE BUDOUKAN!!
YEP.
WANT TO COME WATCH?
I CAN PUT YOU ON THE GUEST LIST.
NAH, THAT'S OKAY. I CAN WATCH IT ON THE MONITOR DURING MY BREAK.
AH, RIGHT! YOU'RE WORKING AT THE BUDOUKAN NOW, ARENT YOU?
A LOT OF CUTE GIRLS WORK THERE, SO SARA MIGHT WORRY ABOUT–
OW! OW! OW! YOU'RE STEPPING ON MY FOOT! REALLY HARD!!
JUST GET OUT.

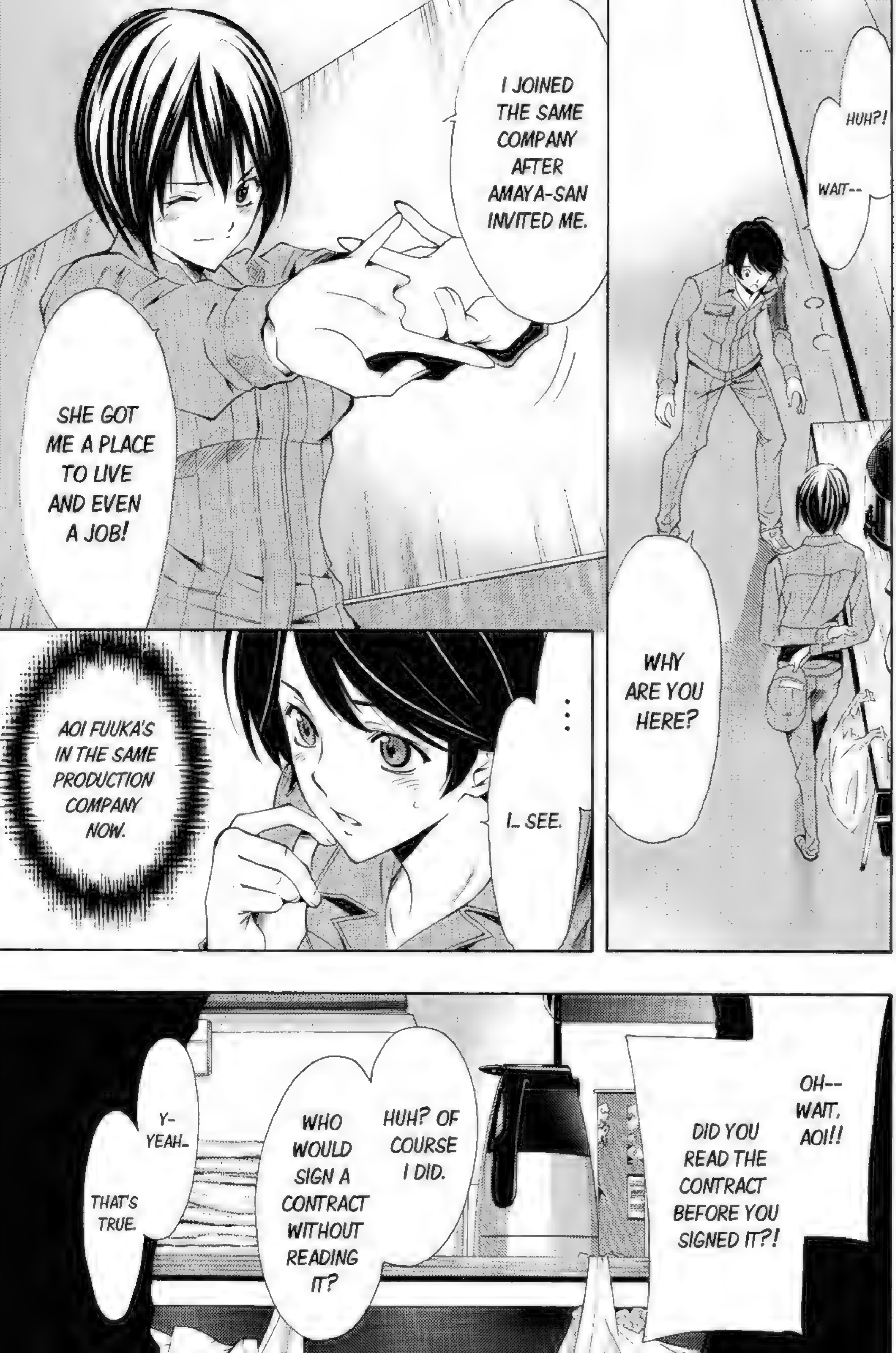


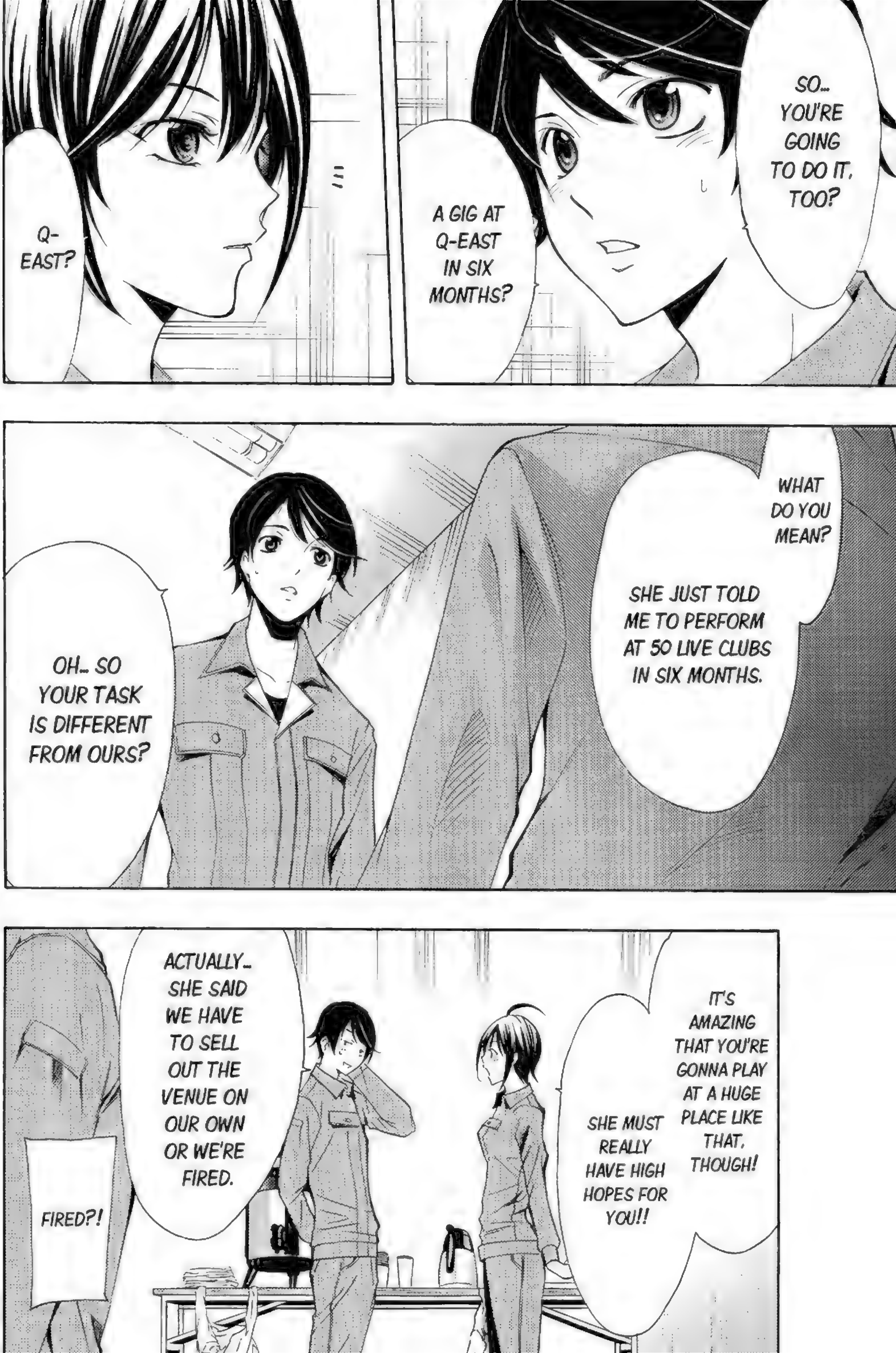
Fuuka

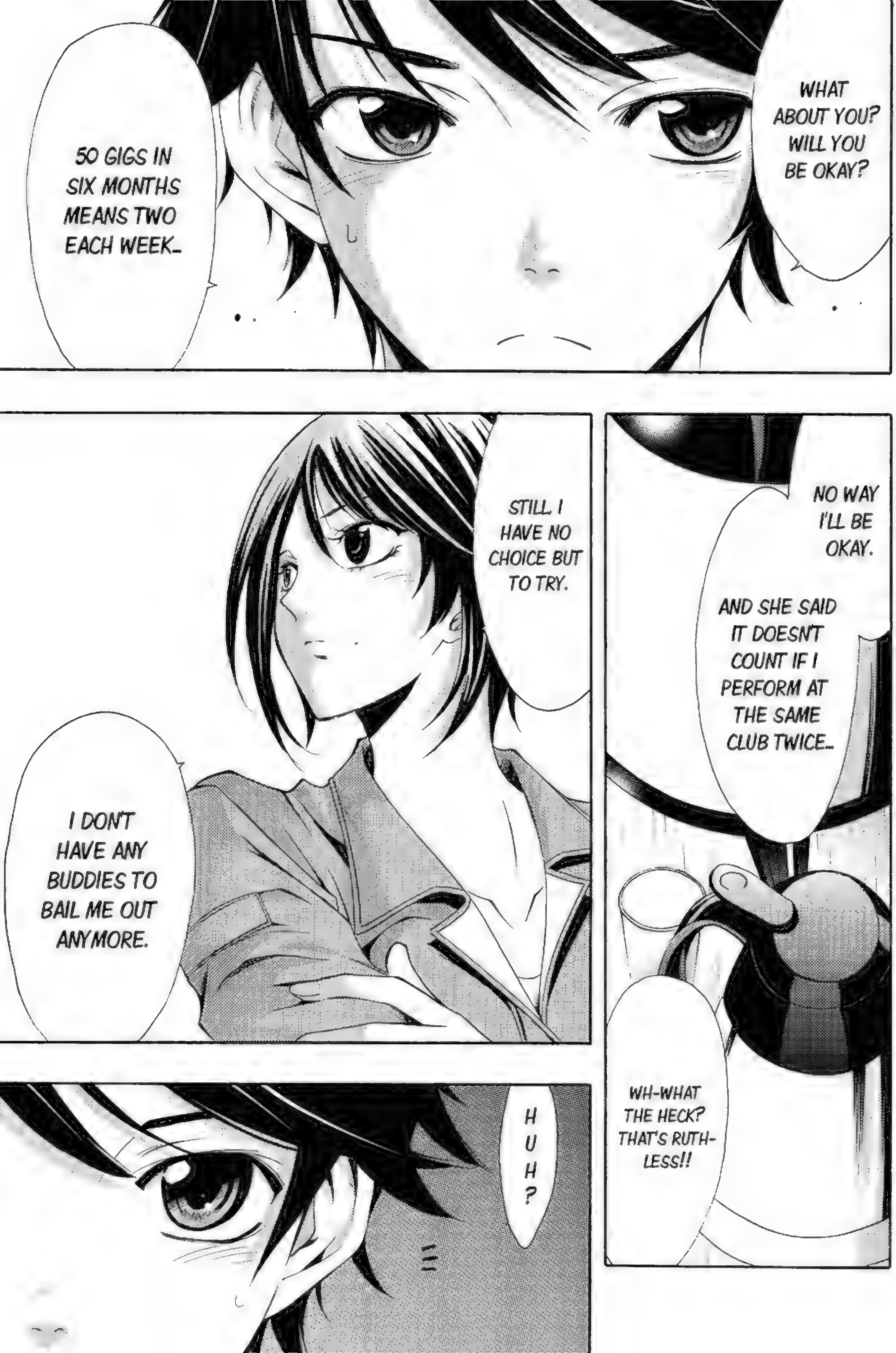
62 AURA.

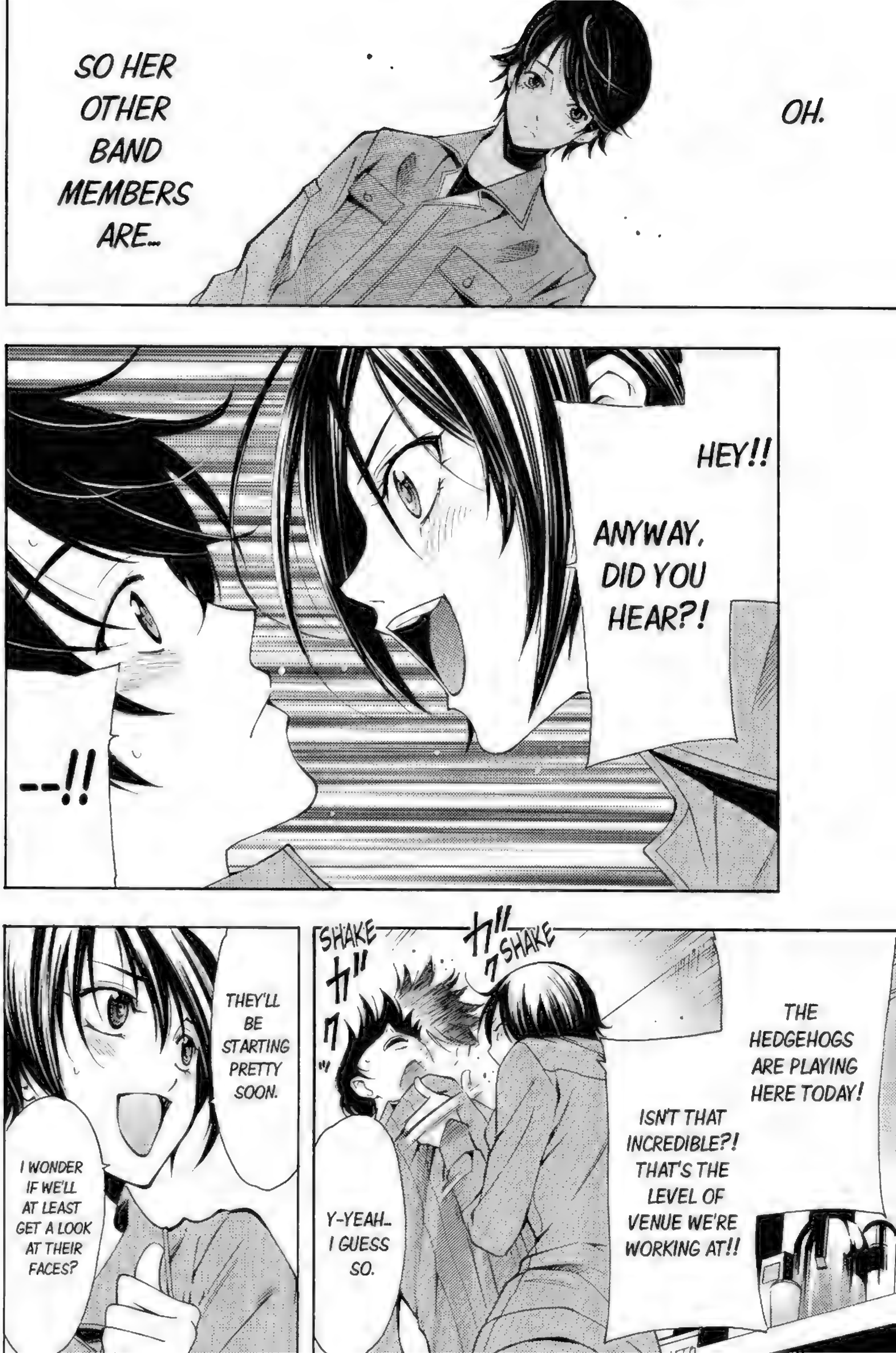
SO.
THERE YOU HAVE IT.

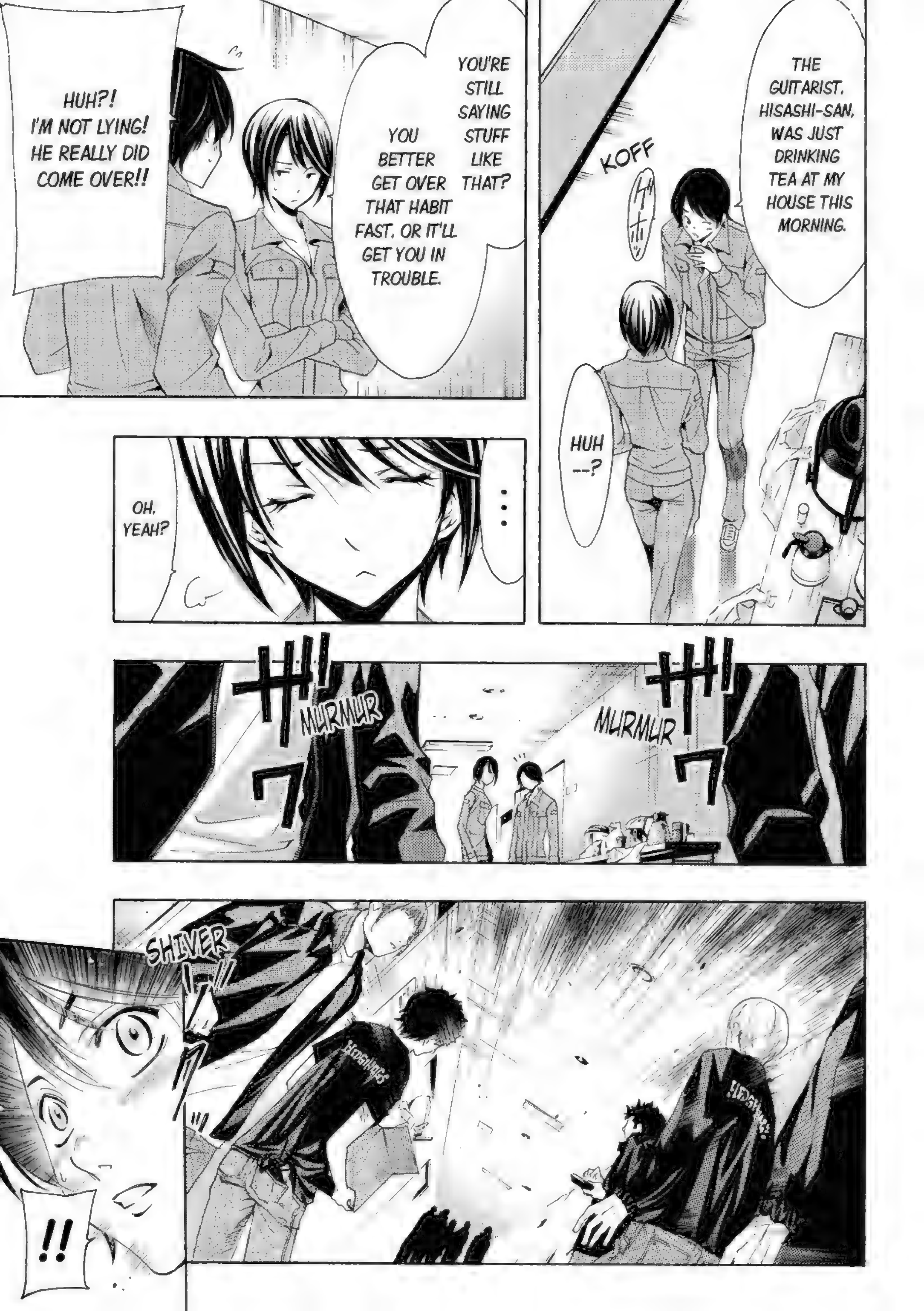

STARTING TODAY, I'M WORKING HERE, TOO.
GOOD TO SEE YOU HERE, YUU-KUN.
AH..
AOI!!

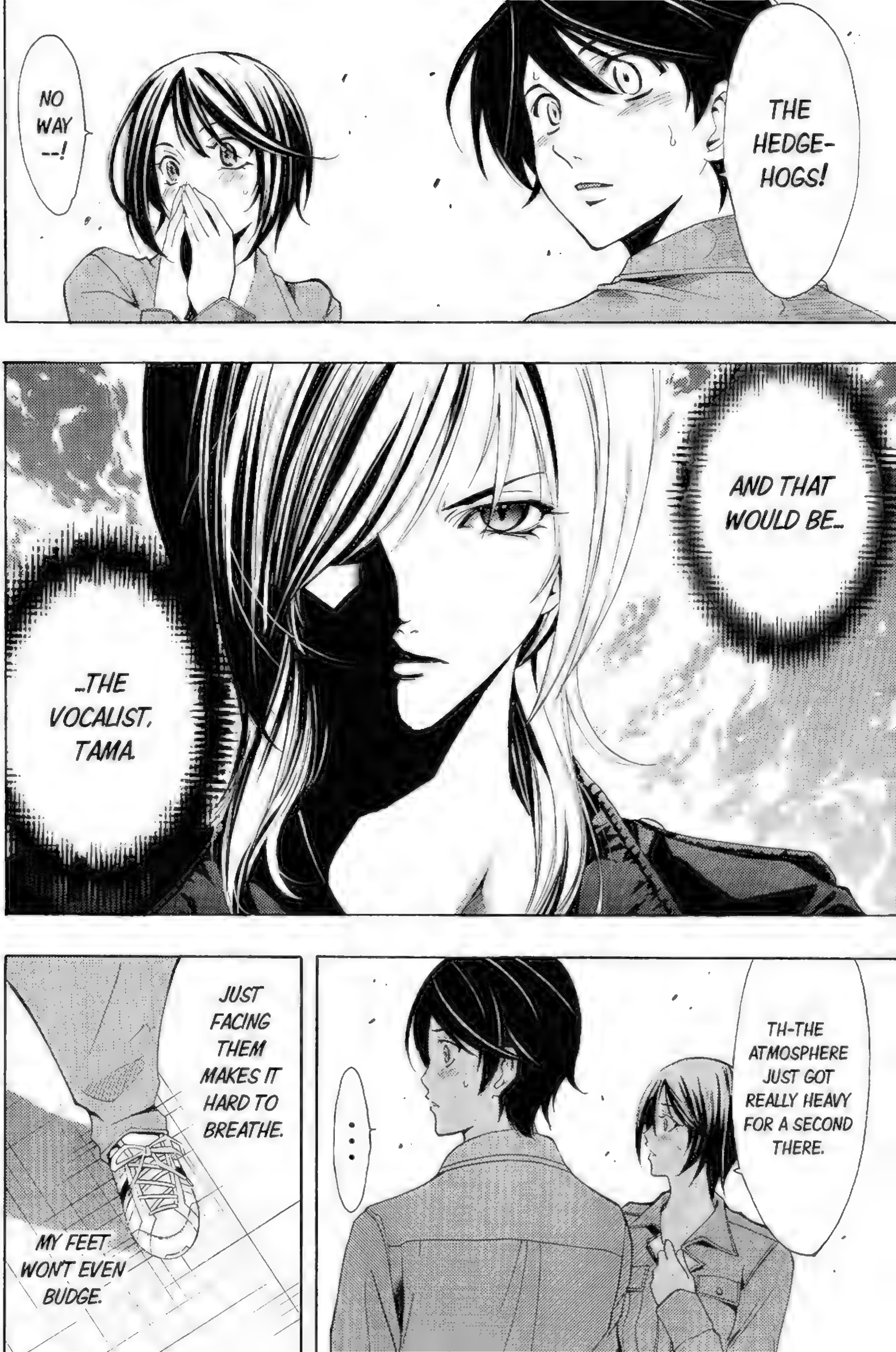

HUH?!
WAIT--
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I JOINED THE SAME COMPANY AFTER AMAYA-SAN INVITED ME.
SHE GOT ME A PLACE TO LIVE AND EVEN A JOB!
...
I... SEE.
AOI FUUKA'S IN THE SAME PRODUCTION COMPANY NOW.
OH-- WAIT, AOI!!
DID YOU READ THE CONTRACT BEFORE YOU SIGNED IT?!
HUH? OF COURSE I DID.
WHO WOULD SIGN A CONTRACT WITHOUT READING IT?
Y-YEAH...
THAT'S TRUE.

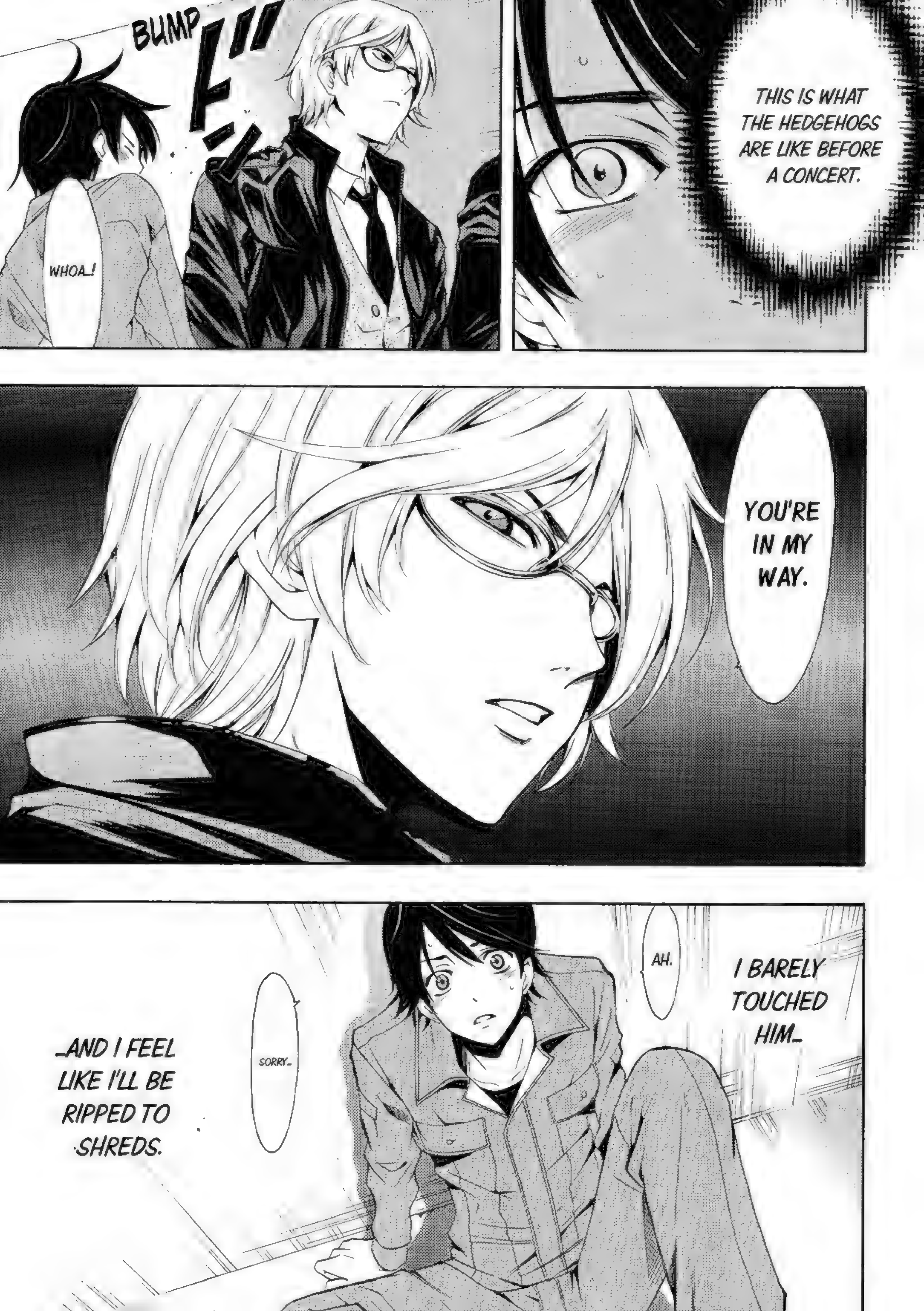

SO... YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, TOO?
A GIG AT Q-EAST IN SIX MONTHS?
Q-EAST?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SHE JUST TOLD ME TO PERFORM AT 50 LIVE CLUBS IN SIX MONTHS.
OH... SO YOUR TASK IS DIFFERENT FROM OURS?
IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU'RE GONNA PLAY AT A HUGE PLACE LIKE THAT, THOUGH!
SHE MUST REALLY HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU!!
ACTUALLY... SHE SAID WE HAVE TO SELL OUT THE VENUE ON OUR OWN OR WE'RE FIRED.
FIRED?!

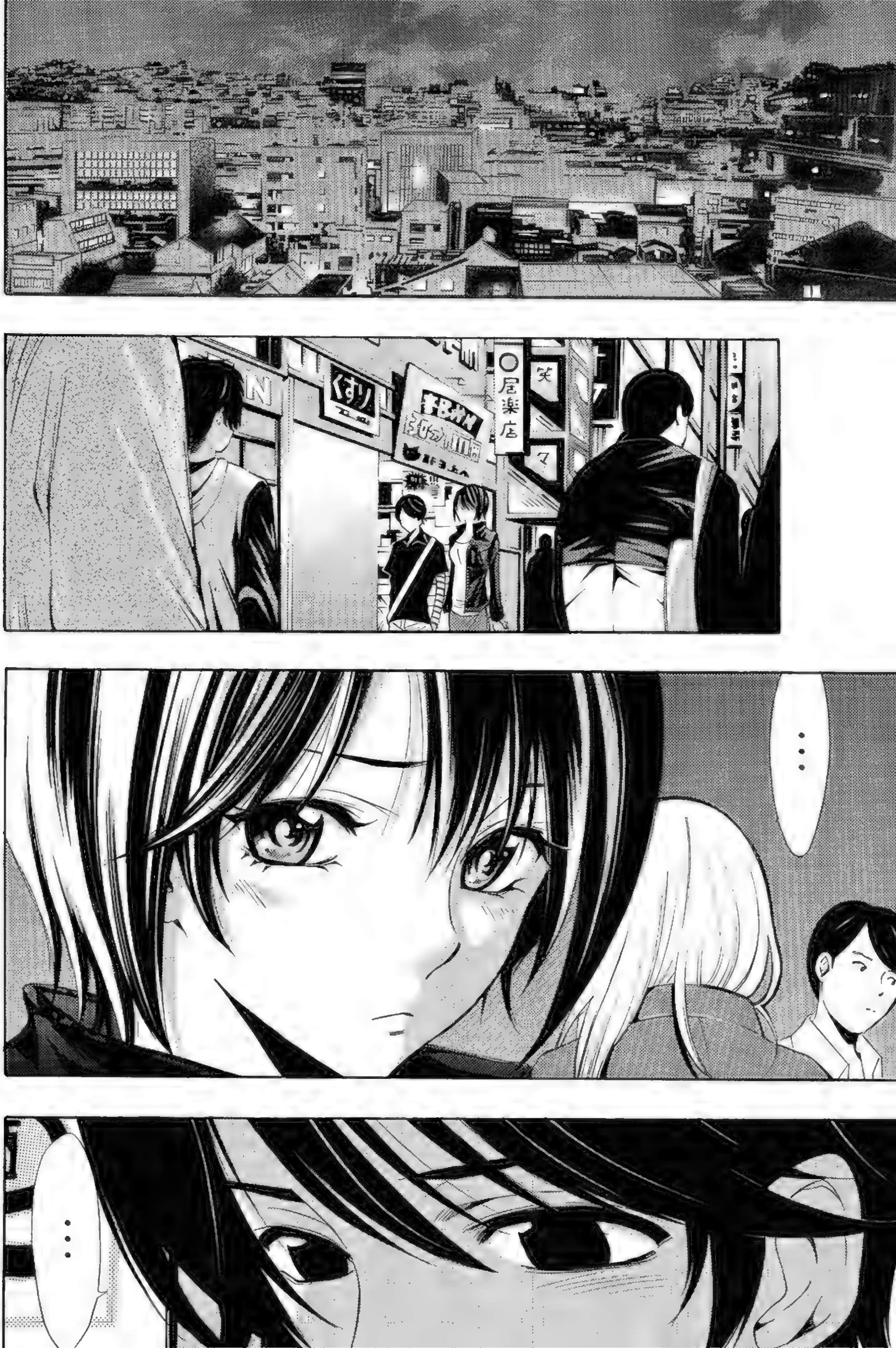

WHAT ABOUT YOU? WILL YOU BE OKAY?
50 GIGS IN SIX MONTHS MEANS TWO EACH WEEK..
NO WAY I'LL BE OKAY.
AND SHE SAID IT DOESN'T COUNT IF I PERFORM AT THE SAME CLUB TWICE..
WH-WHAT THE HECK? THAT'S RUTHLESS!!
STILL, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRY.
I DON'T HAVE ANY BUDDIES TO BAIL ME OUT ANYMORE.
HUH?

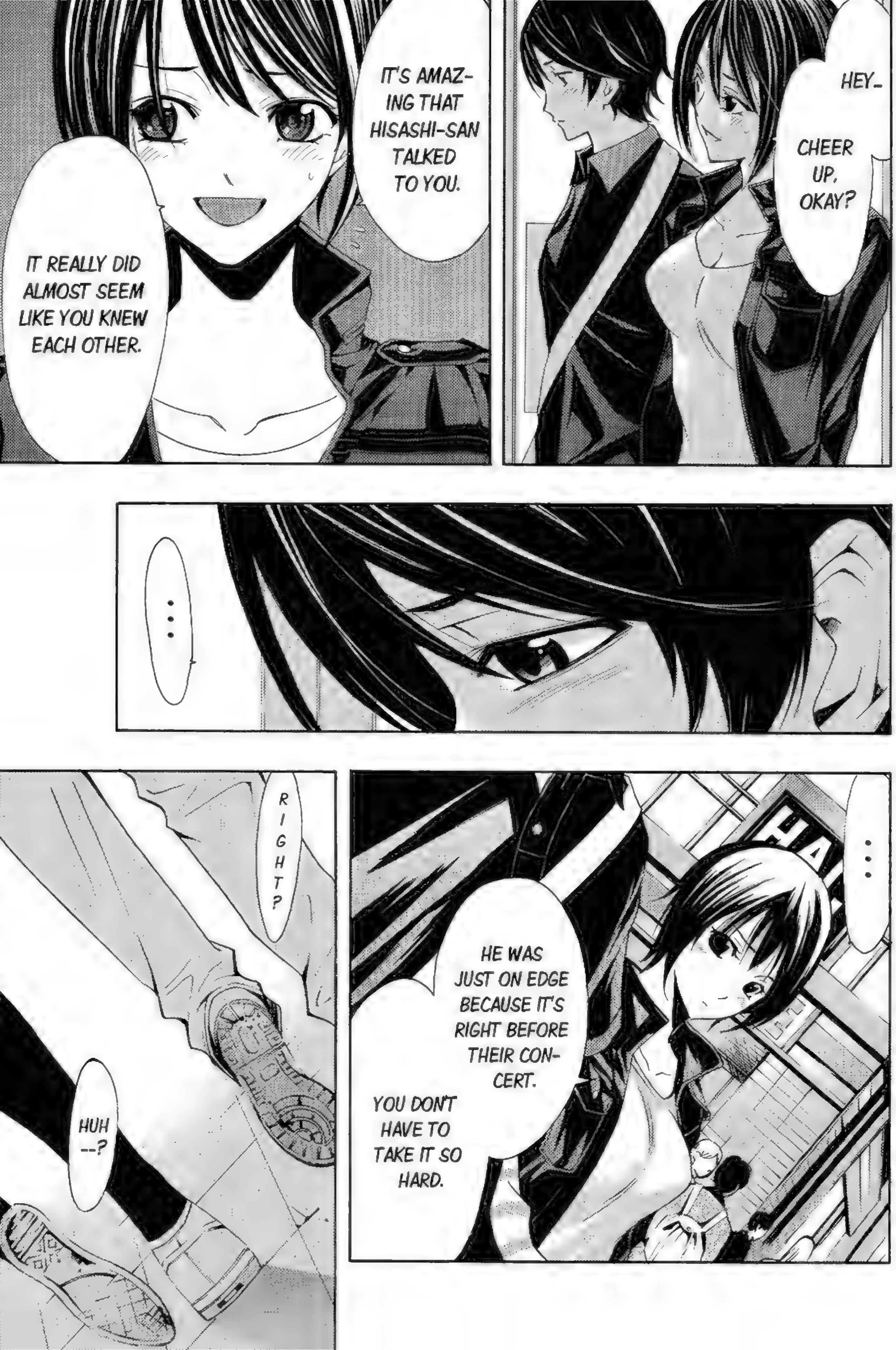

OH.
...
SO HER OTHER BAND MEMBERS ARE...
HEY!!
ANYWAY, DID YOU HEAR?!
--!!
SHAKE
ガッ
SHAKE
ガッ
THE HEDGEHOGS ARE PLAYING HERE TODAY!
ISN'T THAT INCREDIBLE?! THAT'S THE LEVEL OF VENUE WE'RE WORKING AT!!
Y-YEAH... I GUESS SO.
THEY'LL BE STARTING PRETTY SOON.
I WONDER IF WE'LL AT LEAST GET A LOOK AT THEIR FACES?

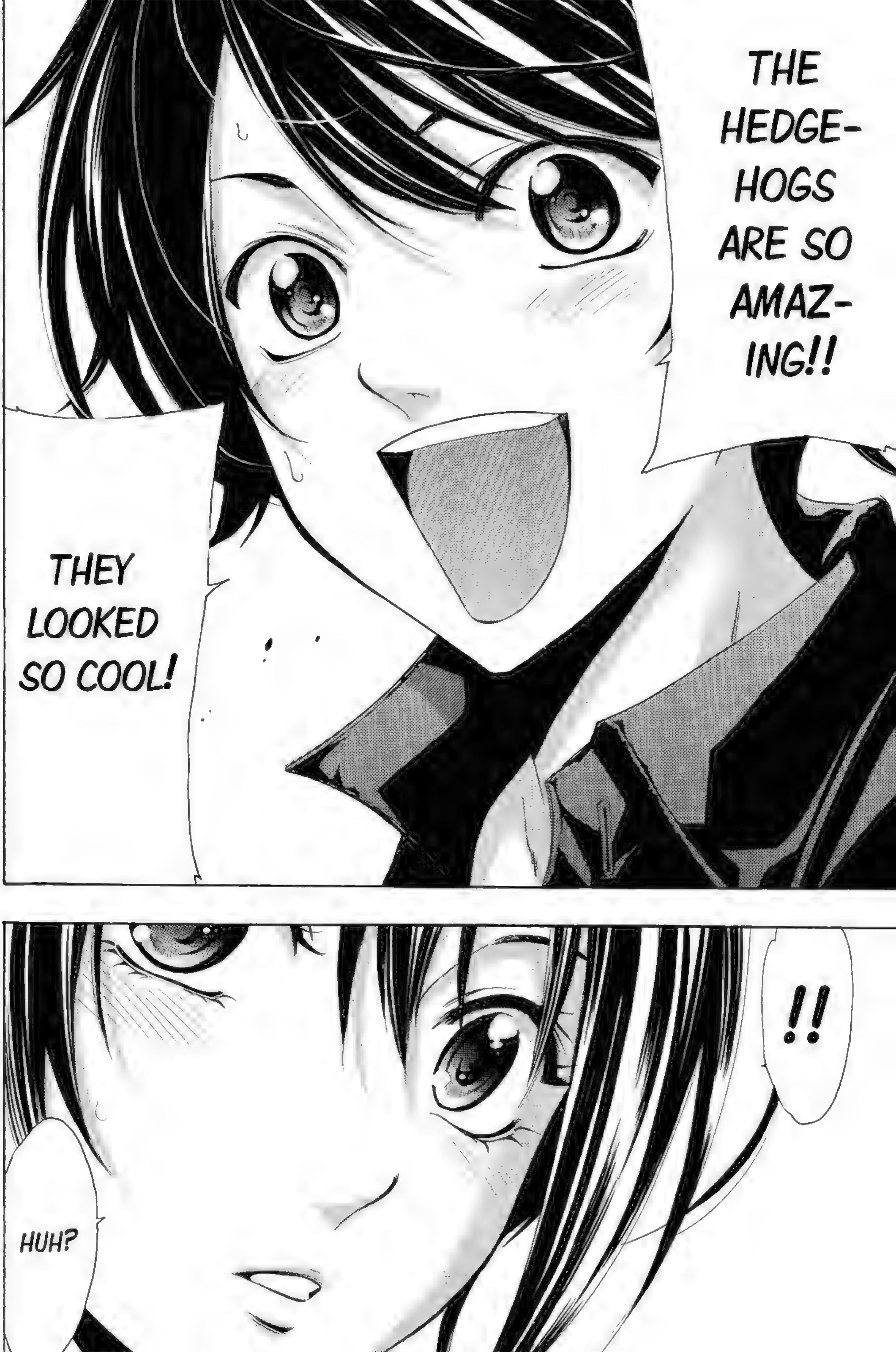

THE GUITARIST, HISASHI-SAN, WAS JUST DRINKING TEA AT MY HOUSE THIS MORNING.
KOFF
ケホッ
HUH --?
YOU'RE STILL SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT?
YOU BETTER GET OVER THAT HABIT FAST, OR IT'LL GET YOU IN TROUBLE.
HUH?! I'M NOT LYING! HE REALLY DID COME OVER!!
...
OH, YEAH?
MURMUR
MURMUR
SHIVER
!!

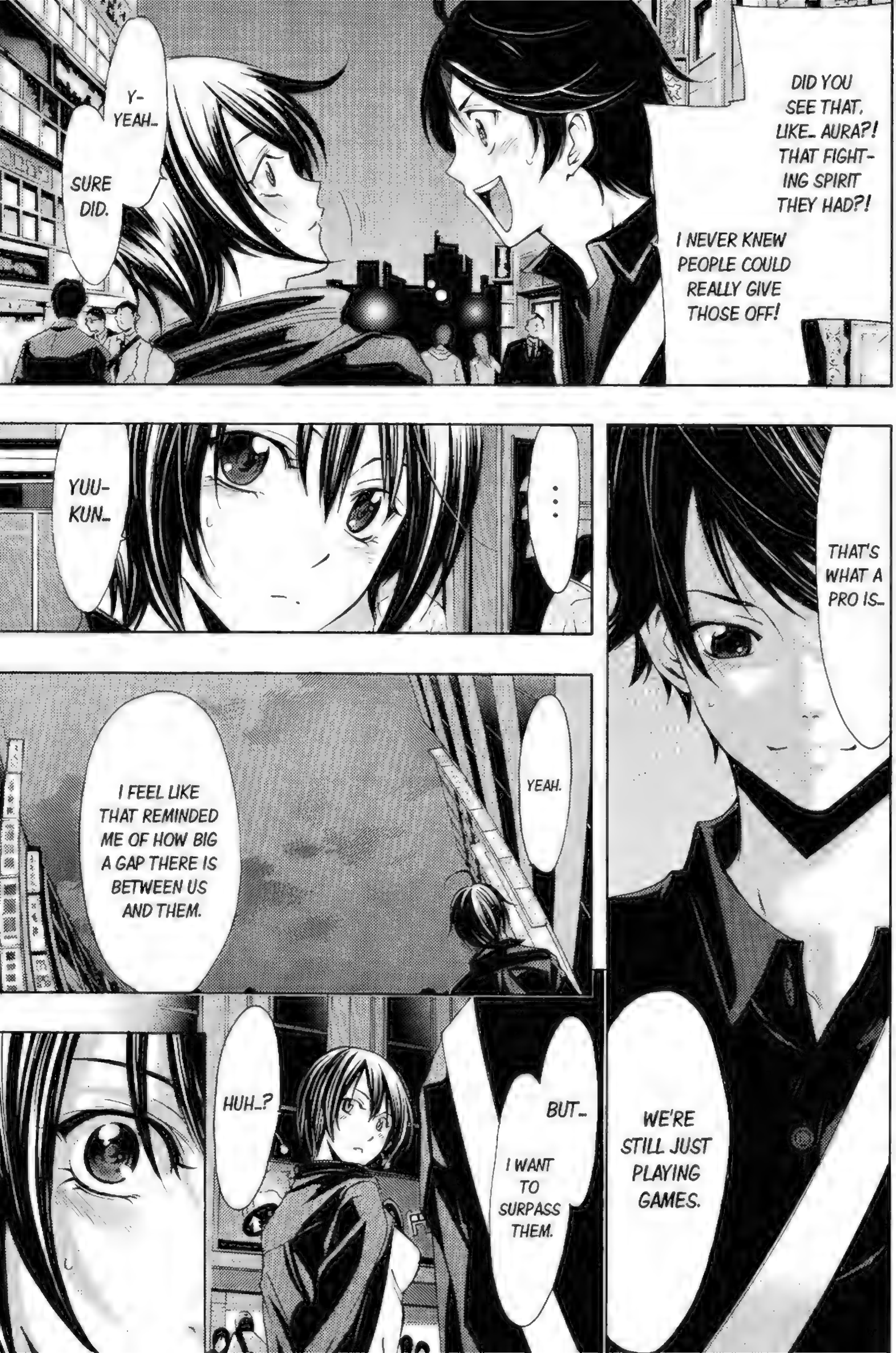

THE HEDGE-HOGS!
NO WAY --!
AND THAT WOULD BE...
...THE VOCALIST, TAMA.
TH-THE ATMOSPHERE JUST GOT REALLY HEAVY FOR A SECOND THERE.
...
JUST FACING THEM MAKES IT HARD TO BREATHE.
MY FEET WON'T EVEN BUDGE.

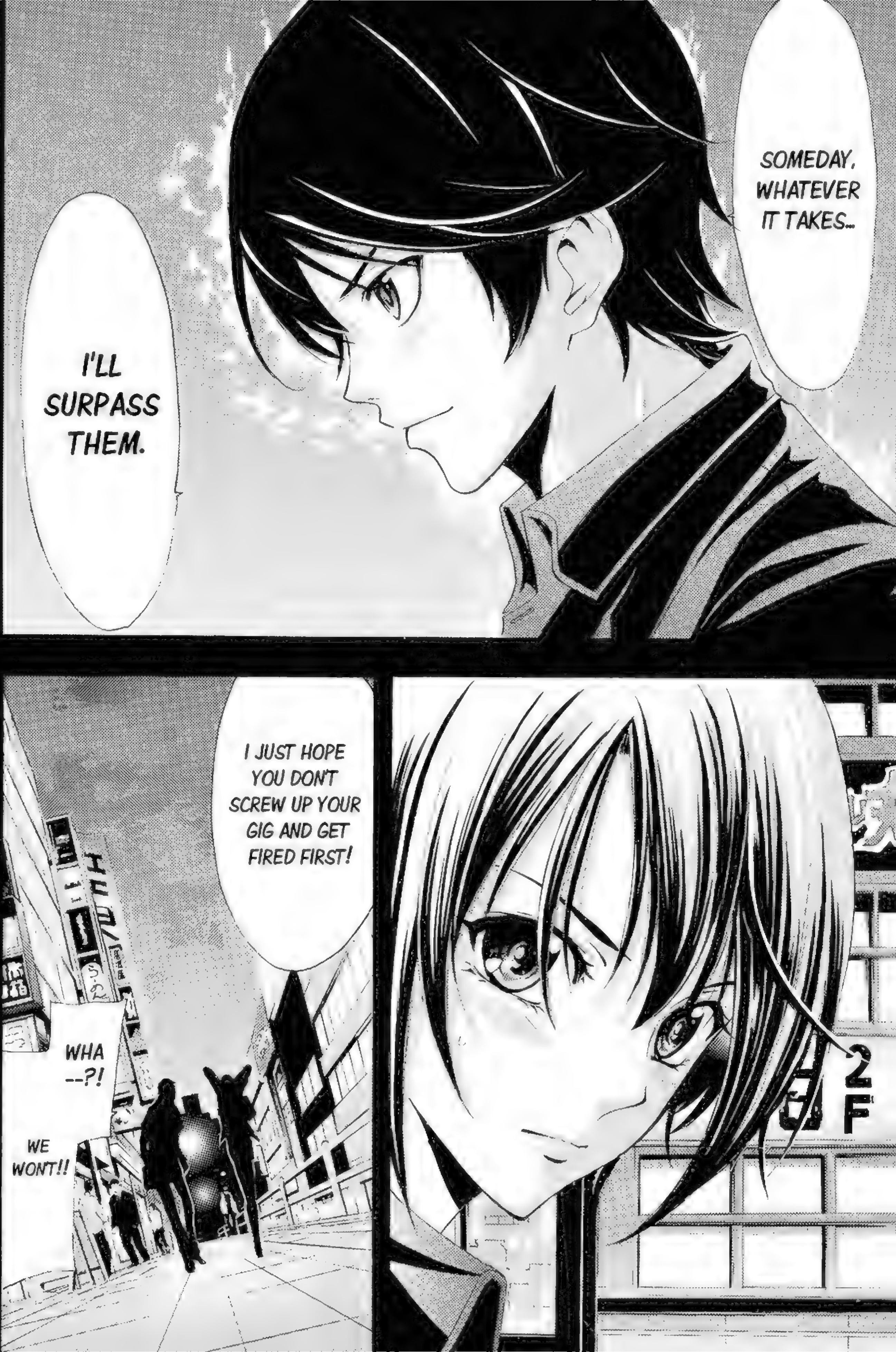

THIS IS WHAT THE HEDGEHOGS ARE LIKE BEFORE A CONCERT.
BUMP
WHOA..!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
AH.
I BARELY TOUCHED HIM...
SORRY...
...AND I FEEL LIKE I'LL BE RIPPED TO SHREDS.

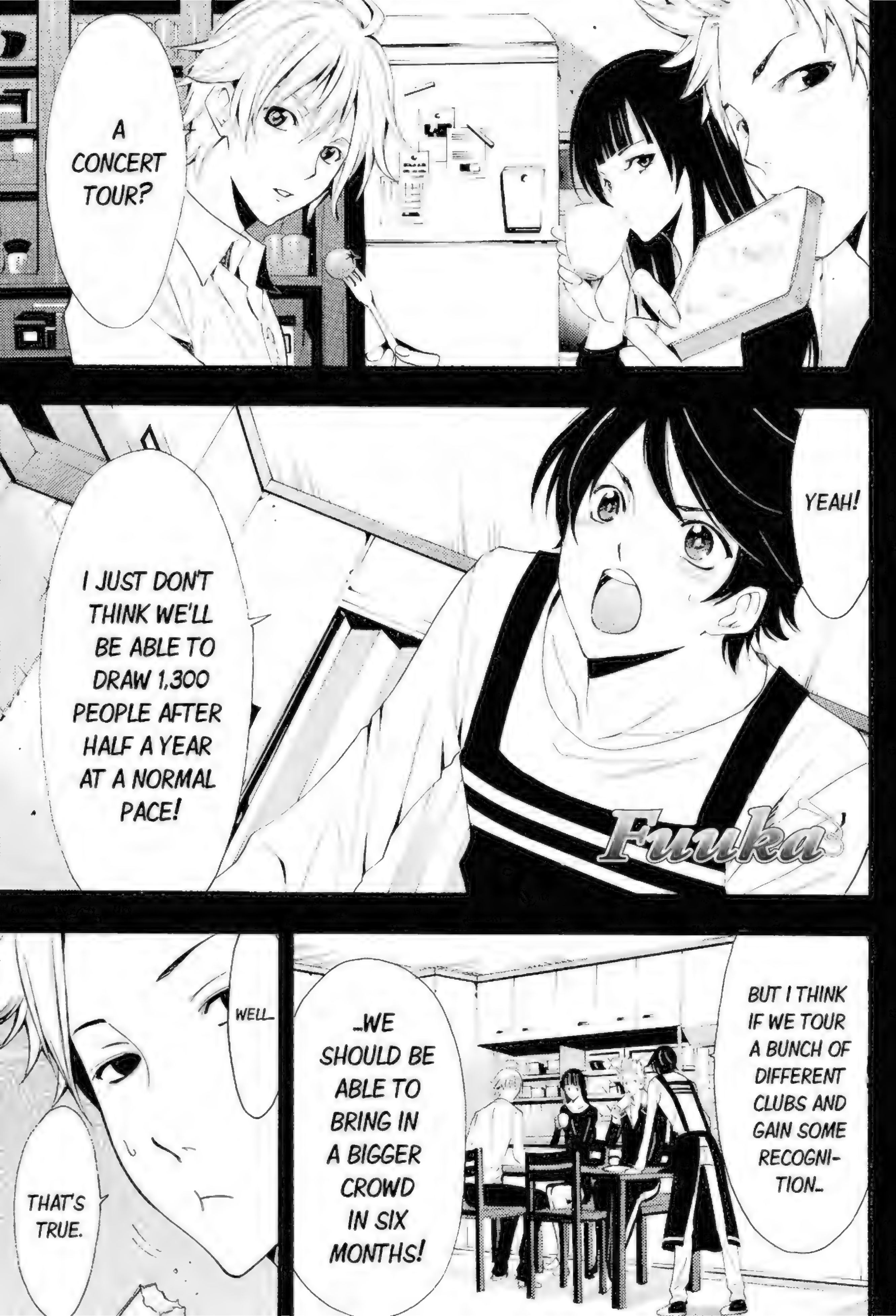

笑
〇居楽店
くすり
…
…

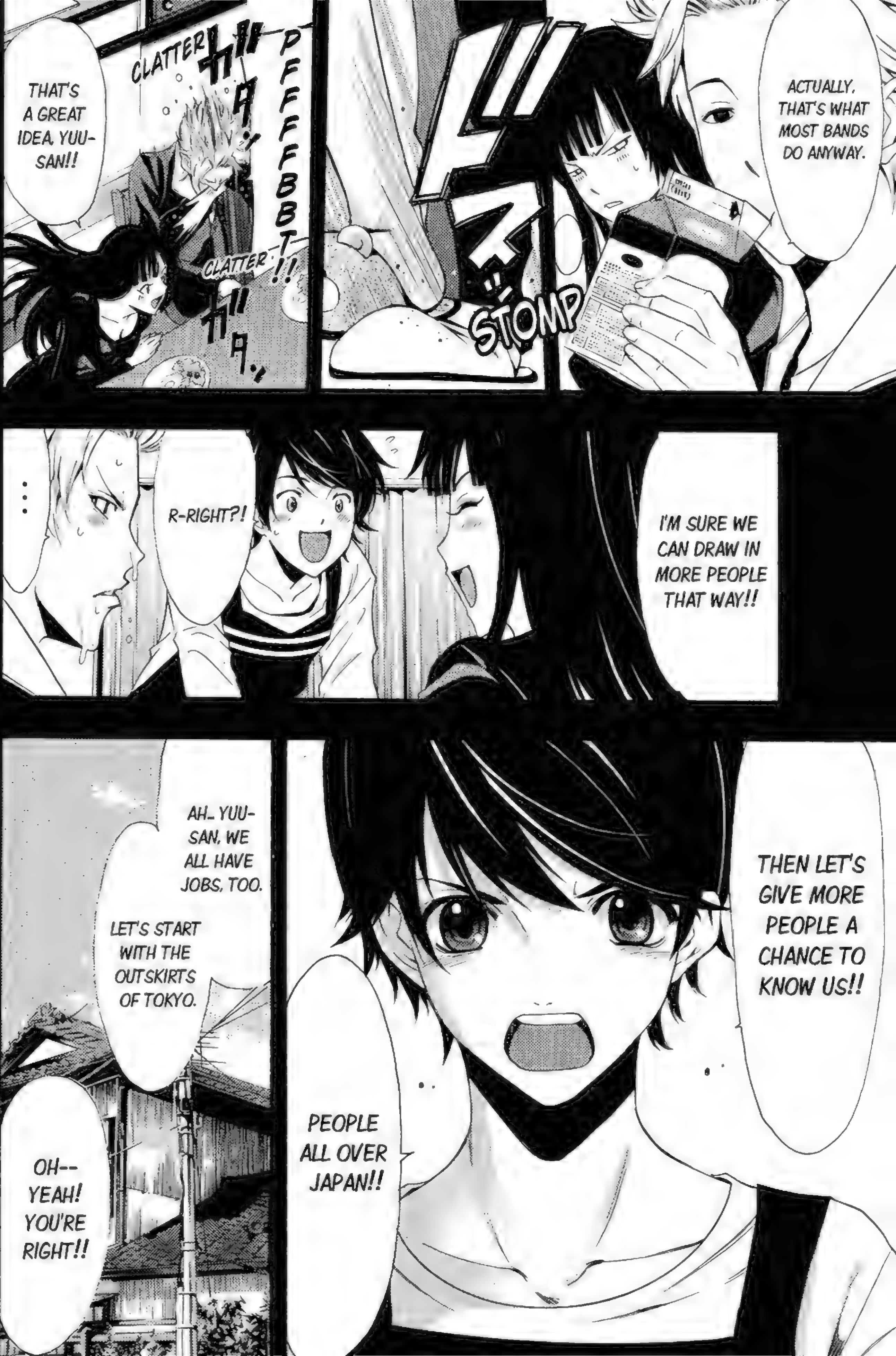

HEY-
CHEER UP, OKAY?
IT'S AMAZING THAT HISASHI-SAN TALKED TO YOU.
IT REALLY DID ALMOST SEEM LIKE YOU KNEW EACH OTHER.
...
...
HE WAS JUST ON EDGE BECAUSE IT'S RIGHT BEFORE THEIR CONCERT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE IT SO HARD.
RIGHT?
HUH--?

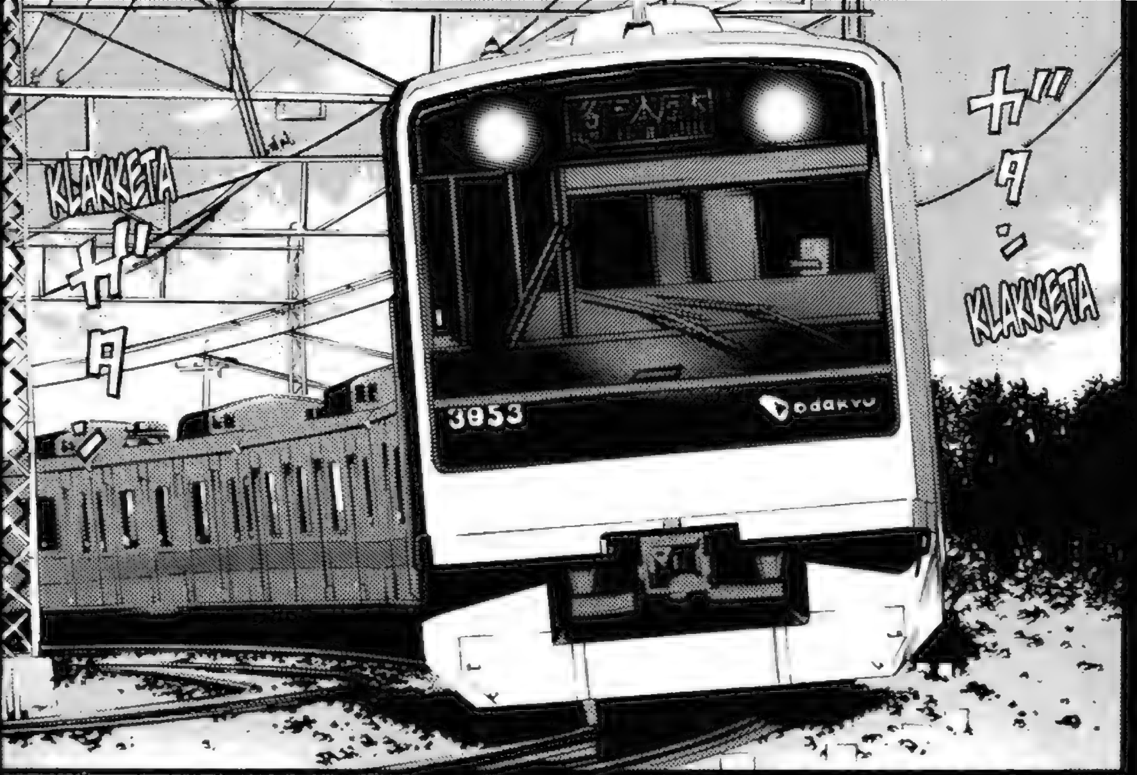

THE HEDGEHOGS ARE SO AMAZING!!
THEY LOOKED SO COOL!
!!
HUH?


DID YOU SEE THAT, LIKE... AURA?! THAT FIGHTING SPIRIT THEY HAD?!
I NEVER KNEW PEOPLE COULD REALLY GIVE THOSE OFF!
Y-YEAH... SURE DID.
THAT'S WHAT A PRO IS...
....
YUU-KUN...
YEAH.
I FEEL LIKE THAT REMINDED ME OF HOW BIG A GAP THERE IS BETWEEN US AND THEM.
WE'RE STILL JUST PLAYING GAMES.
BUT... I WANT TO SURPASS THEM.
HUH...?


SOMEDAY, WHATEVER IT TAKES...
I'LL SURPASS THEM.
I JUST HOPE YOU DON'T SCREW UP YOUR GIG AND GET FIRED FIRST!
2F
WHA--?!
WE WONT!!


A CONCERT TOUR?
YEAH!
I JUST DON'T THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO DRAW 1,300 PEOPLE AFTER HALF A YEAR AT A NORMAL PACE!
Fuuka
BUT I THINK IF WE TOUR A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT CLUBS AND GAIN SOME RECOGNITION..
..WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BRING IN A BIGGER CROWD IN SIX MONTHS!
WELL..
THAT'S TRUE.


ACTUALLY, THAT'S WHAT MOST BANDS DO ANYWAY.
STOMP
PFFFFBBT!!
CLATTER
CLATTER
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, YUU-SAN!!
I'M SURE WE CAN DRAW IN MORE PEOPLE THAT WAY!!
R-RIGHT?!
...
THEN LET'S GIVE MORE PEOPLE A CHANCE TO KNOW US!!
PEOPLE ALL OVER JAPAN!!
AH... YUU-SAN, WE ALL HAVE JOBS, TOO.
LET'S START WITH THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOKYO.
OH-- YEAH! YOU'RE RIGHT!!


ガタン
KLAKKETA
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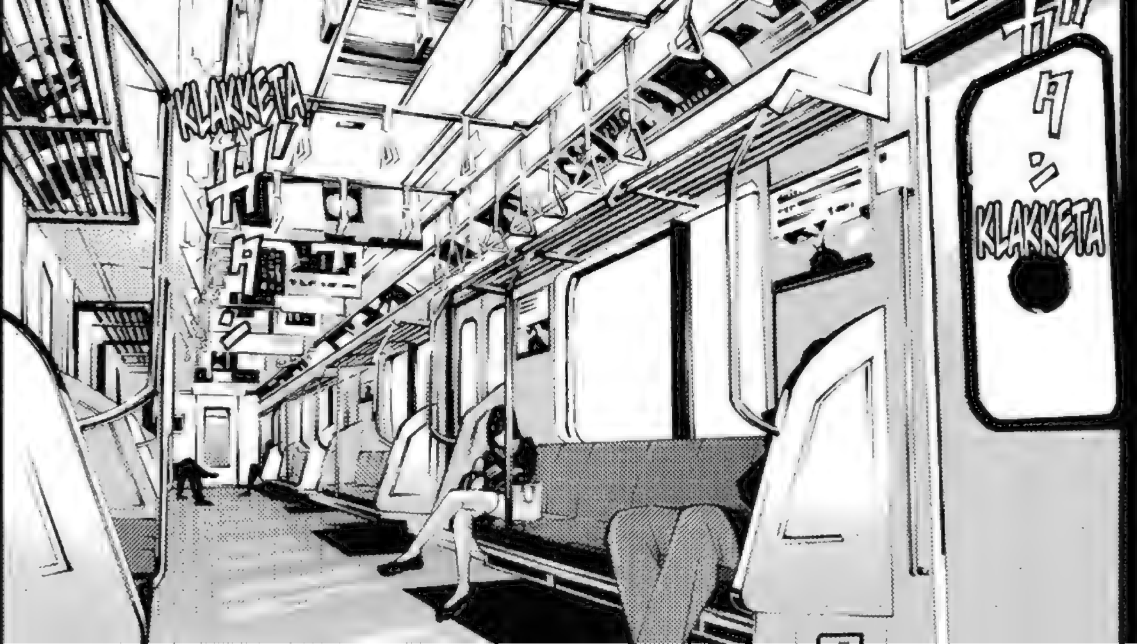
odakyu

Fuuka

# 63 EXPECTATIONS.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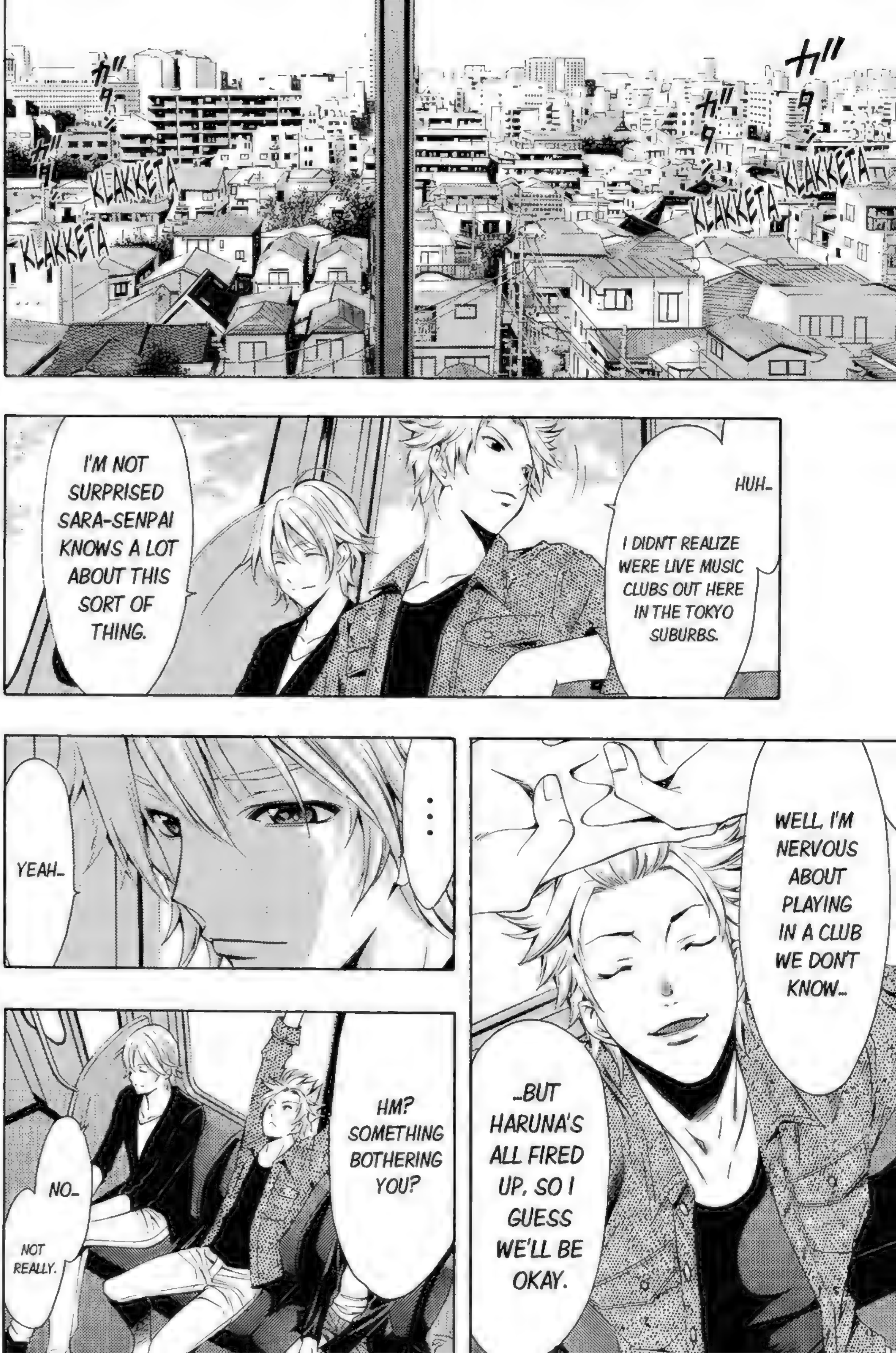
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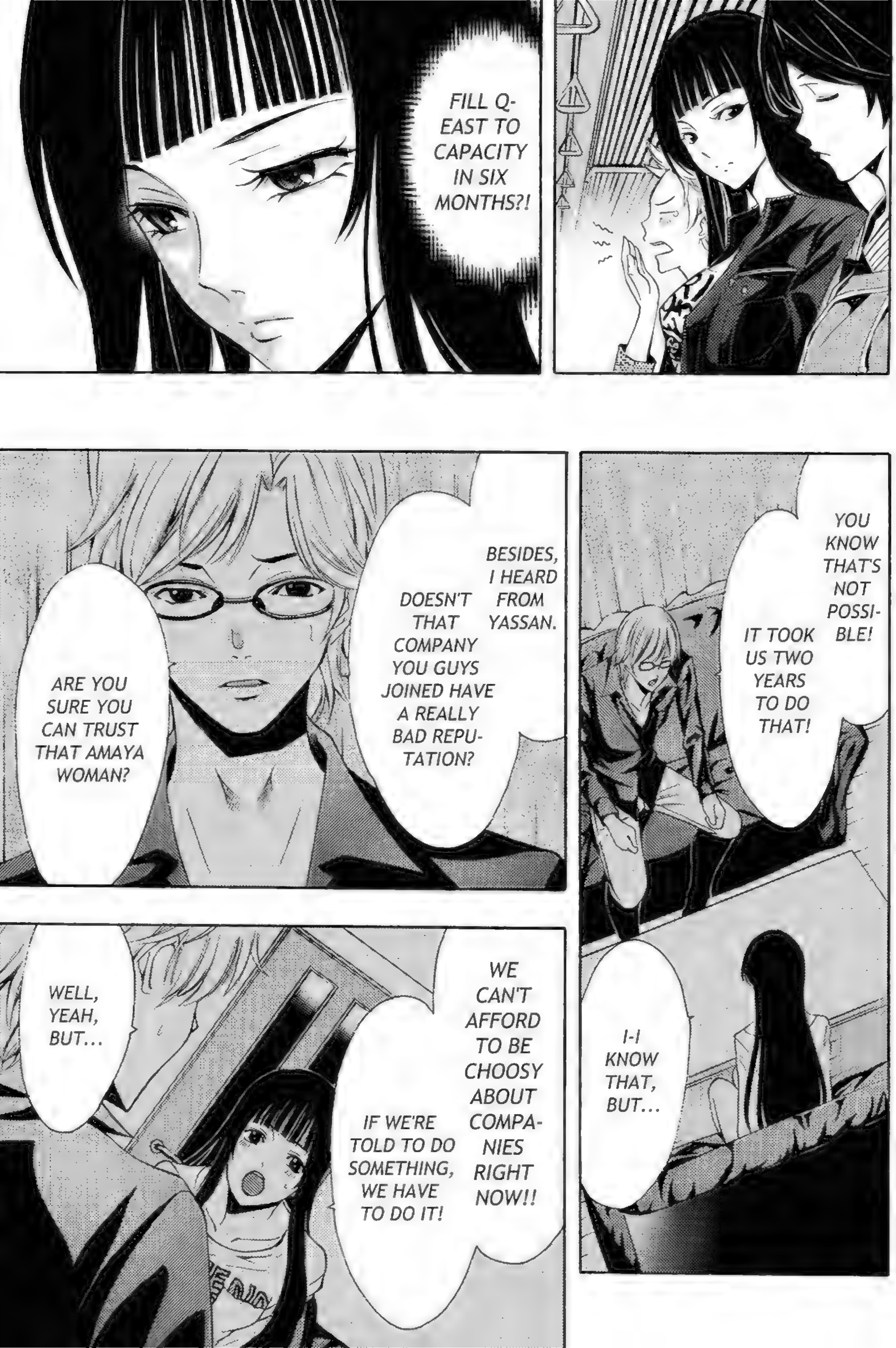
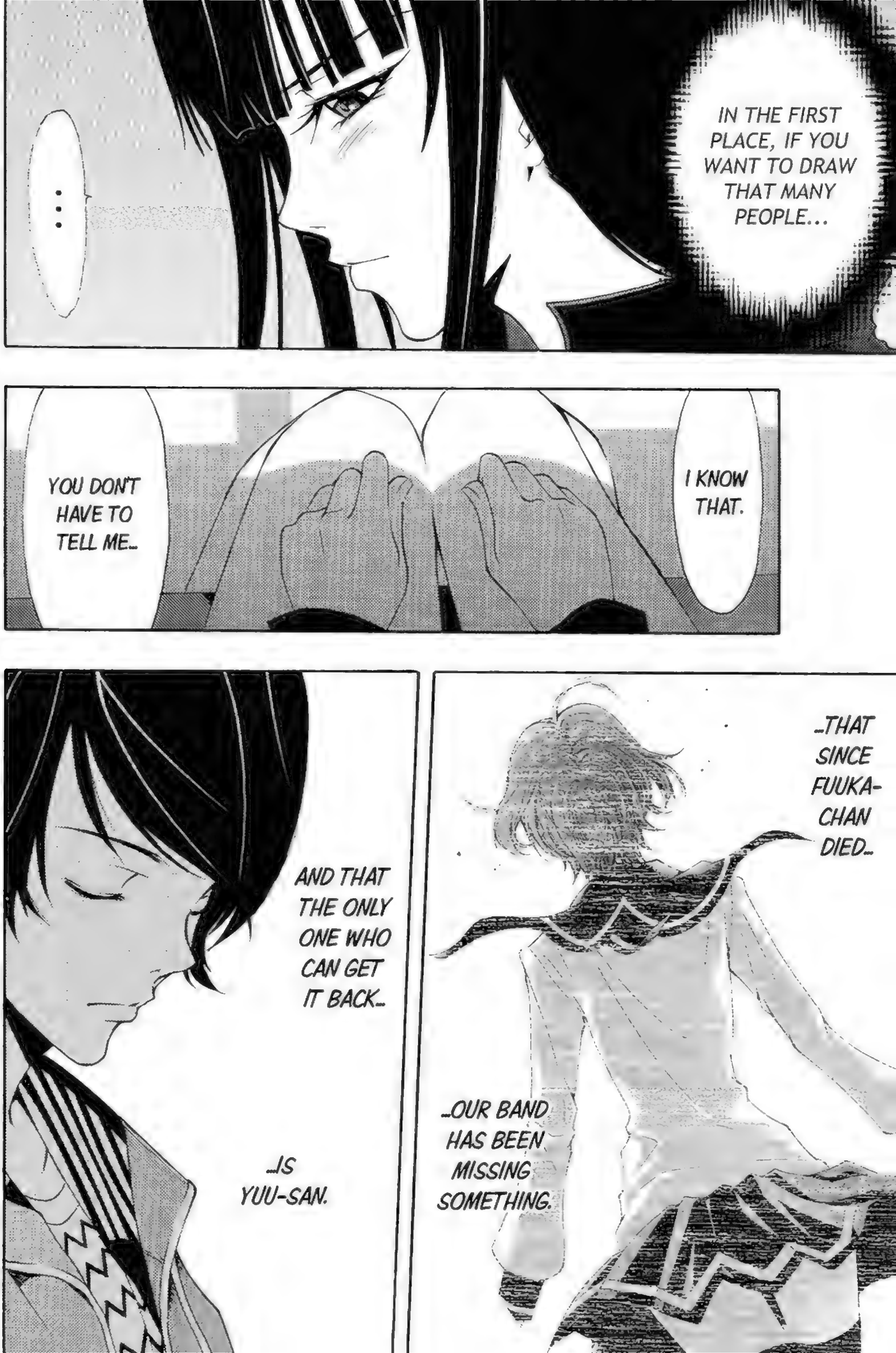
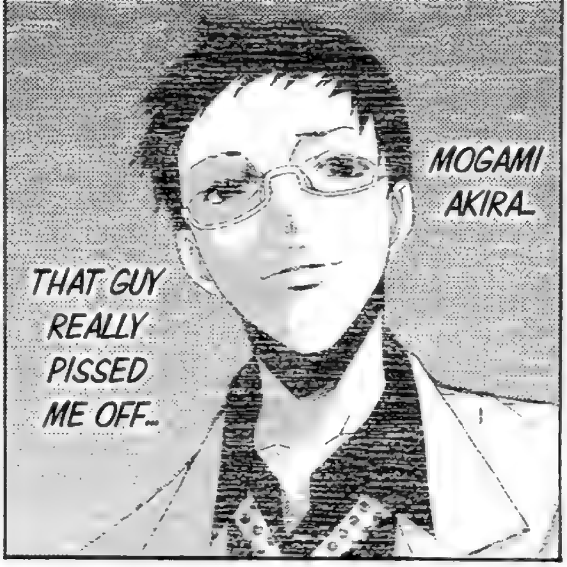
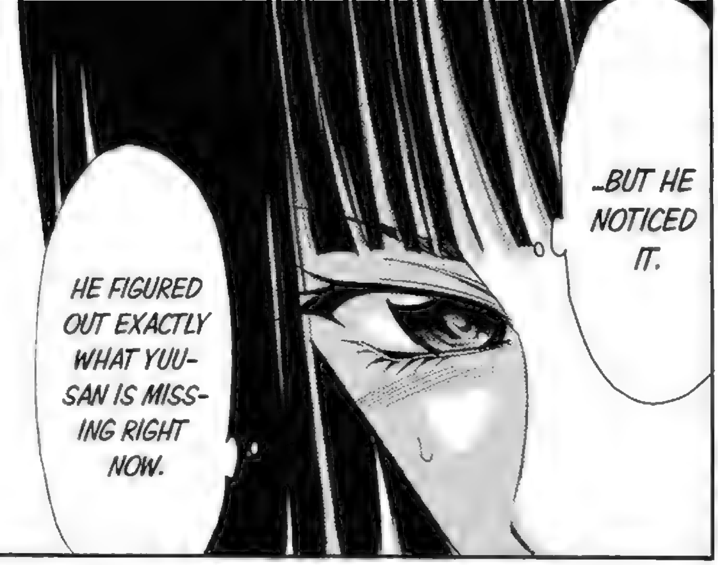
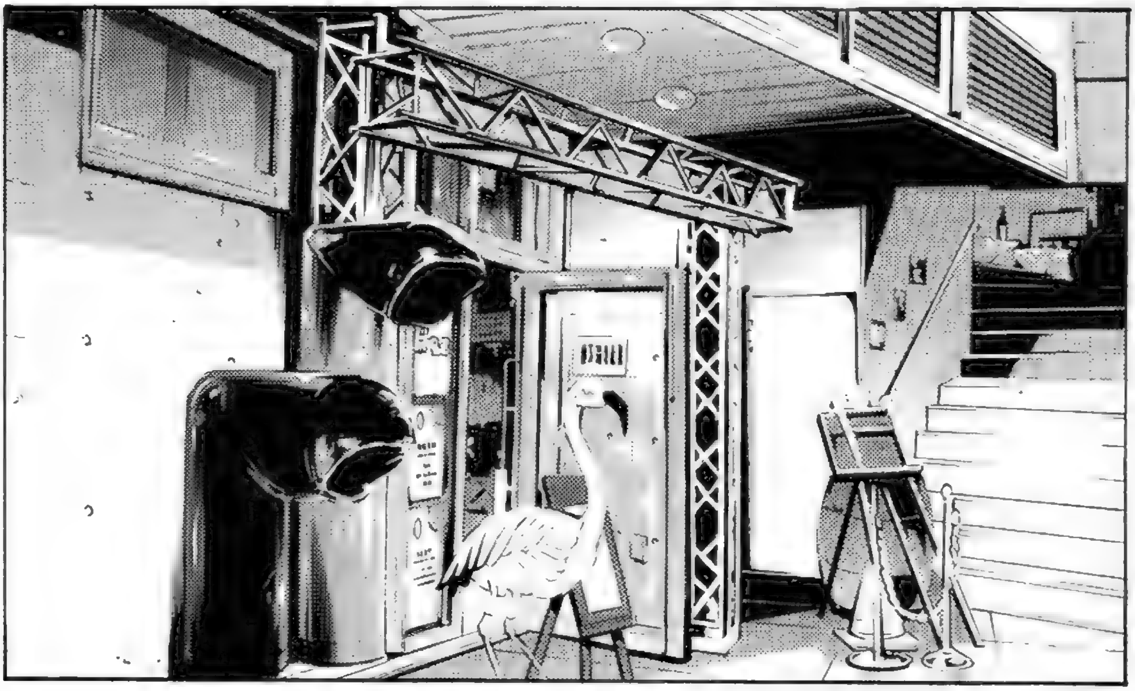
KLAKKETA
HUH...
I DIDN'T REALIZE WERE LIVE MUSIC CLUBS OUT HERE IN THE TOKYO SUBURBS.
I'M NOT SURPRISED SARA-SENPAI KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING.
WELL, I'M NERVOUS ABOUT PLAYING IN A CLUB WE DON'T KNOW...
...BUT HARUNA'S ALL FIRED UP, SO I GUESS WE'LL BE OKAY.
...
YEAH...
HM? SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
NO...
NOT REALLY.

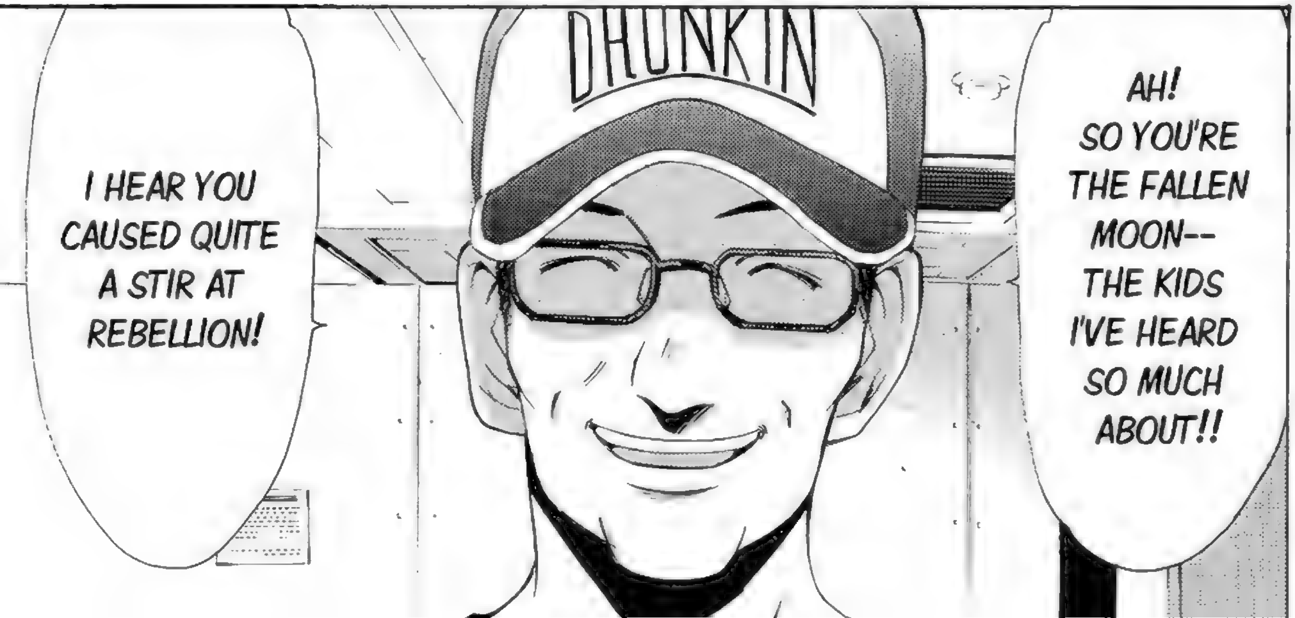

FILL Q-EAST TO CAPACITY IN SIX MONTHS?!
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
IT TOOK US TWO YEARS TO DO THAT!
BESIDES, I HEARD FROM YASSAN.
DOESN'T THAT COMPANY YOU GUYS JOINED HAVE A REALLY BAD REPUTATION?
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN TRUST THAT AMAYA WOMAN?
I-I KNOW THAT, BUT…
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CHOOSY ABOUT COMPANIES RIGHT NOW!!
IF WE'RE TOLD TO DO SOMETHING, WE HAVE TO DO IT!
WELL, YEAH, BUT…

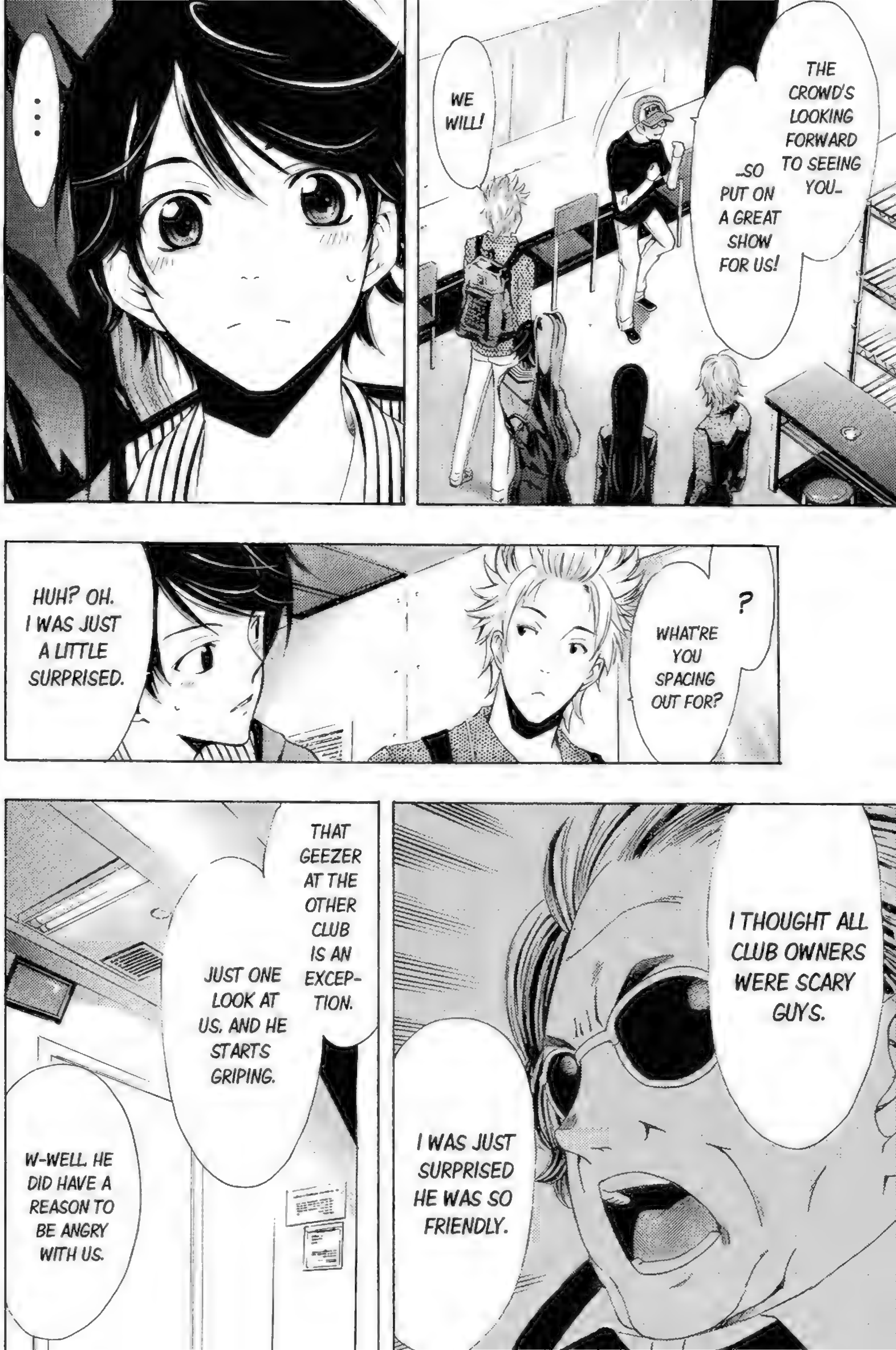

IN THE FIRST PLACE, IF YOU WANT TO DRAW THAT MANY PEOPLE...
...
I KNOW THAT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME..
..THAT SINCE FUUKA-CHAN DIED..
..OUR BAND HAS BEEN MISSING SOMETHING.
AND THAT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET IT BACK..
..IS YUU-SAN.

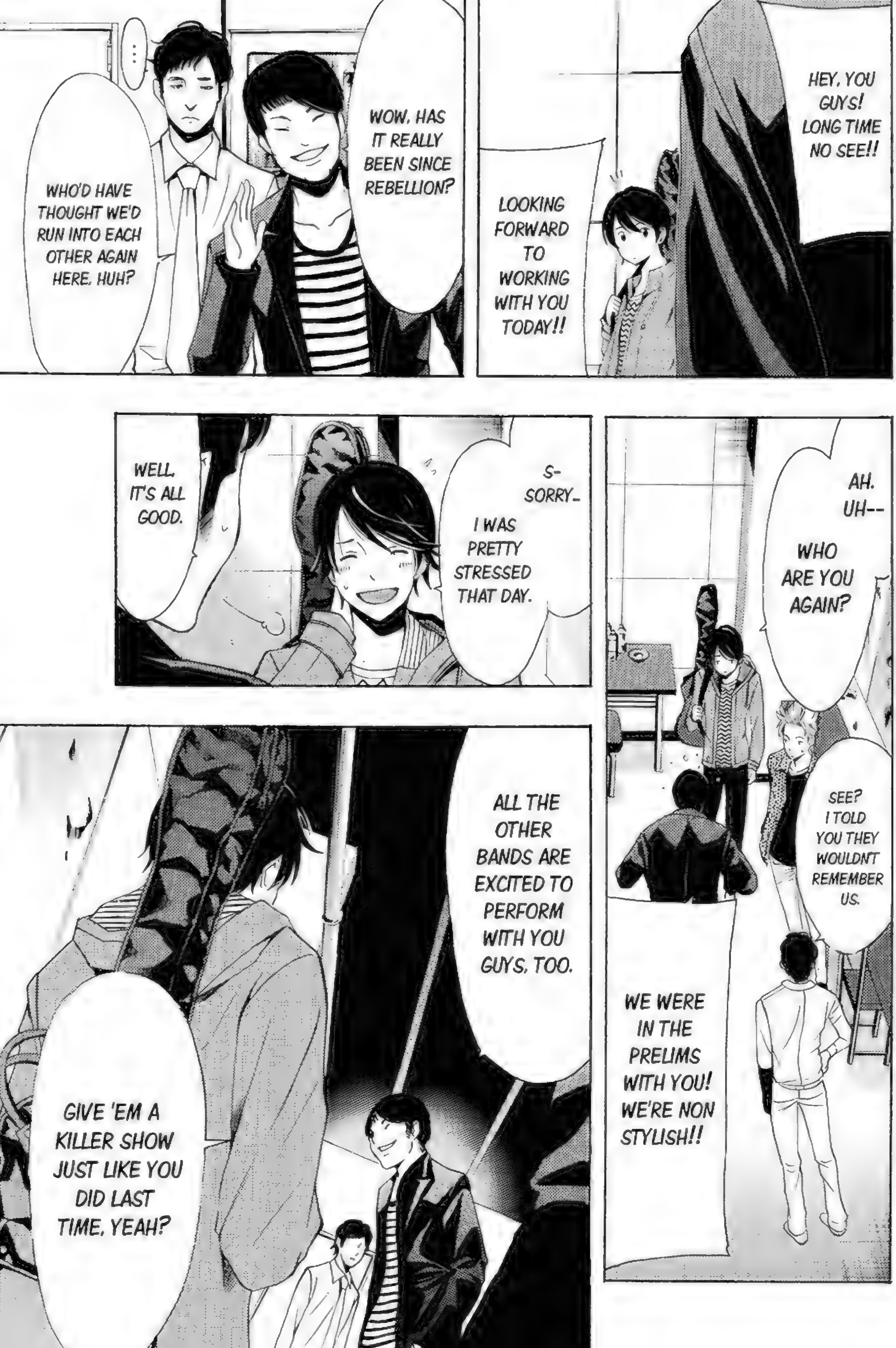

MOGAMI AKIRA...
THAT GUY REALLY PISSED ME OFF...

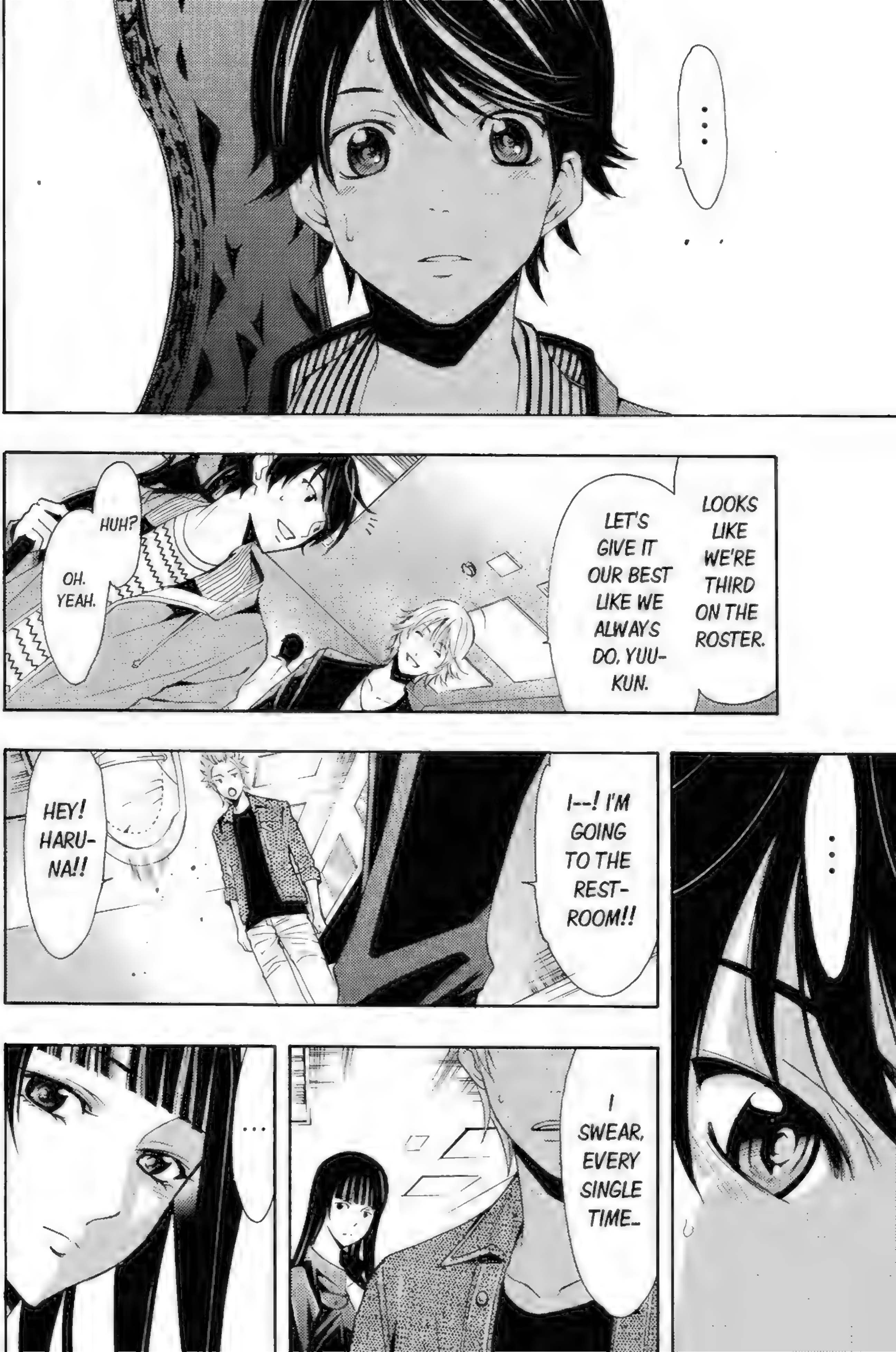

...BUT HE NOTICED IT.
HE FIGURED OUT EXACTLY WHAT YUU-SAN IS MISSING RIGHT NOW.

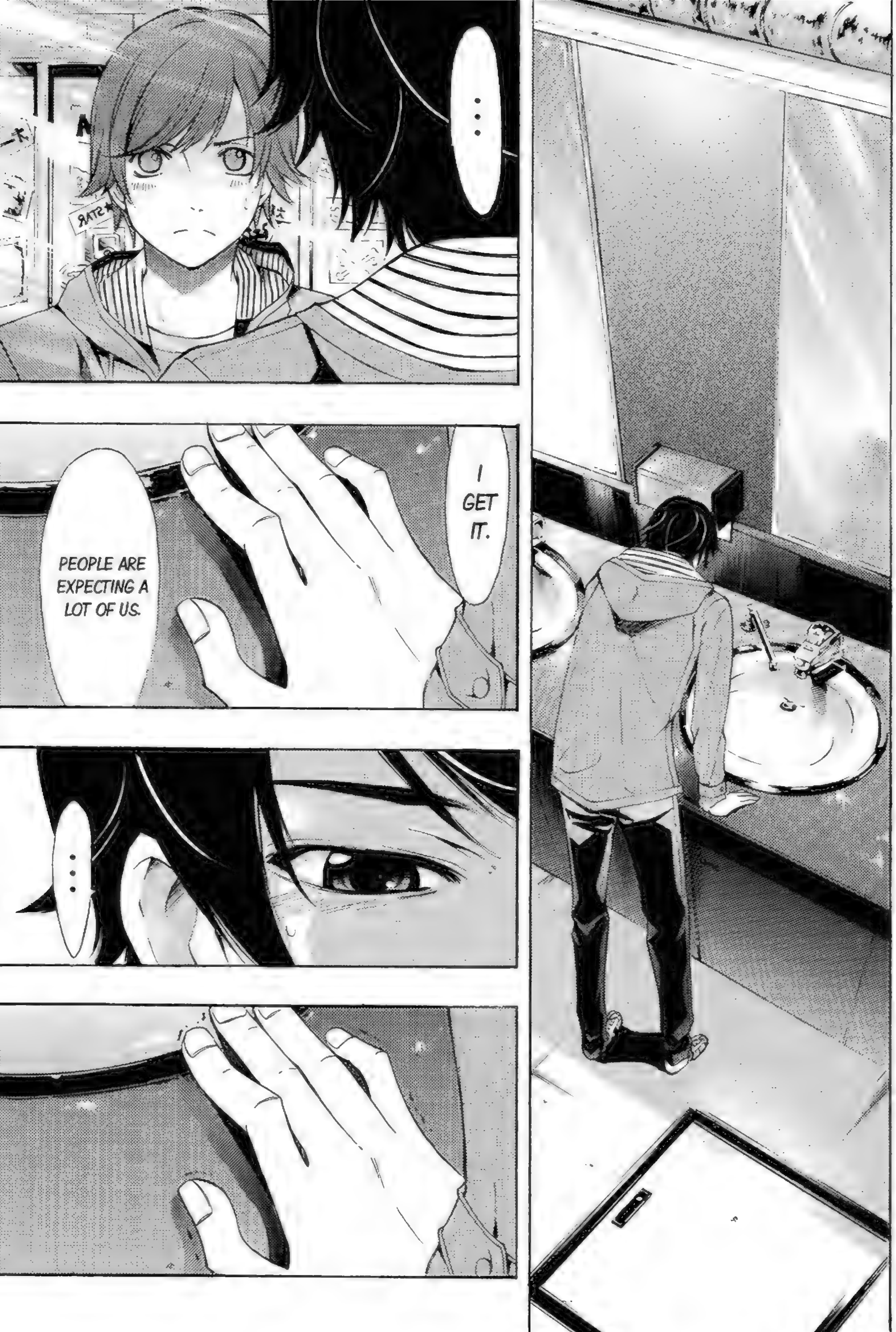


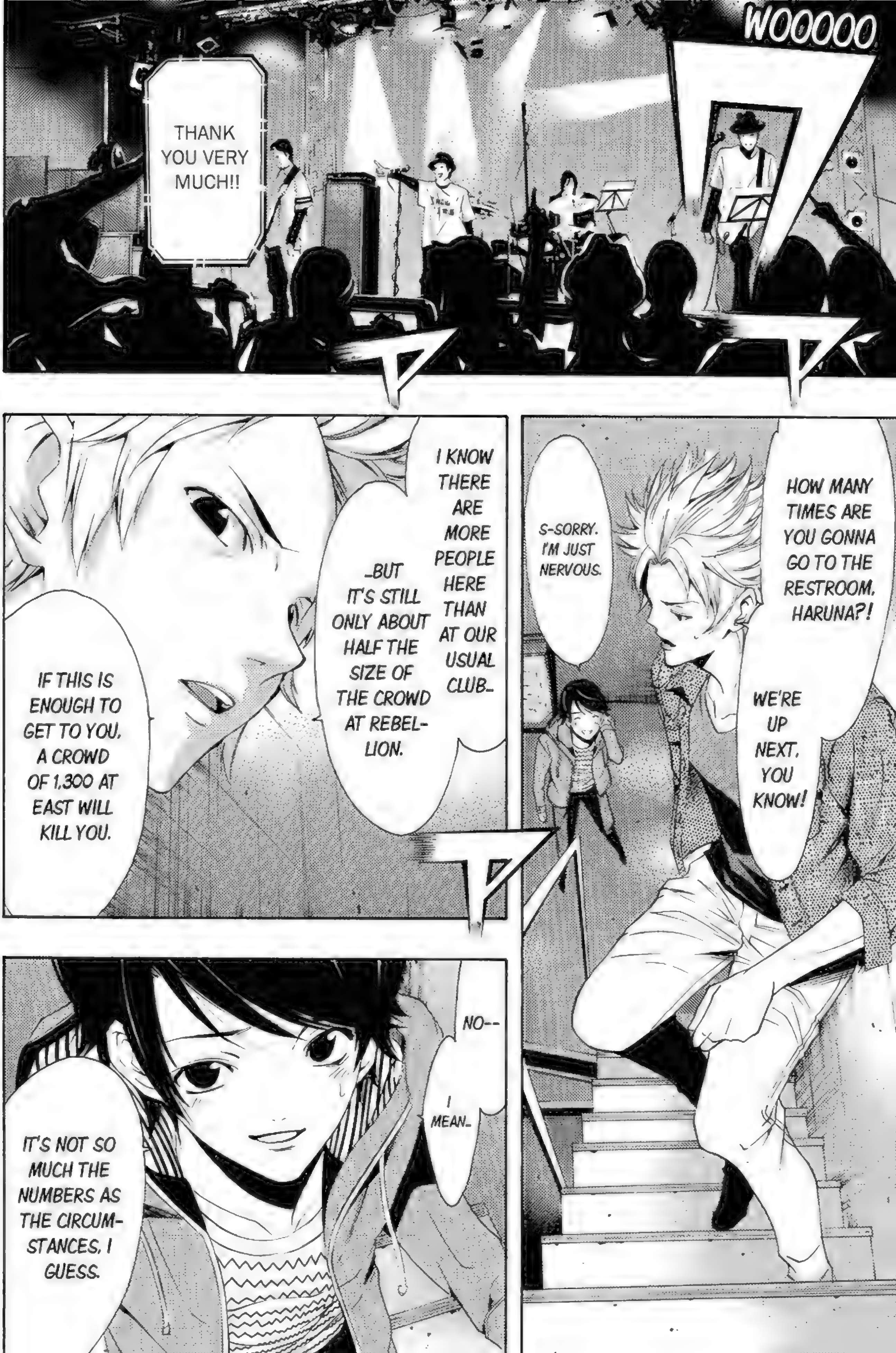

DRUNKIN
AH! SO YOU'RE THE FALLEN MOON-- THE KIDS I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT!!
I HEAR YOU CAUSED QUITE A STIR AT REBELLION!

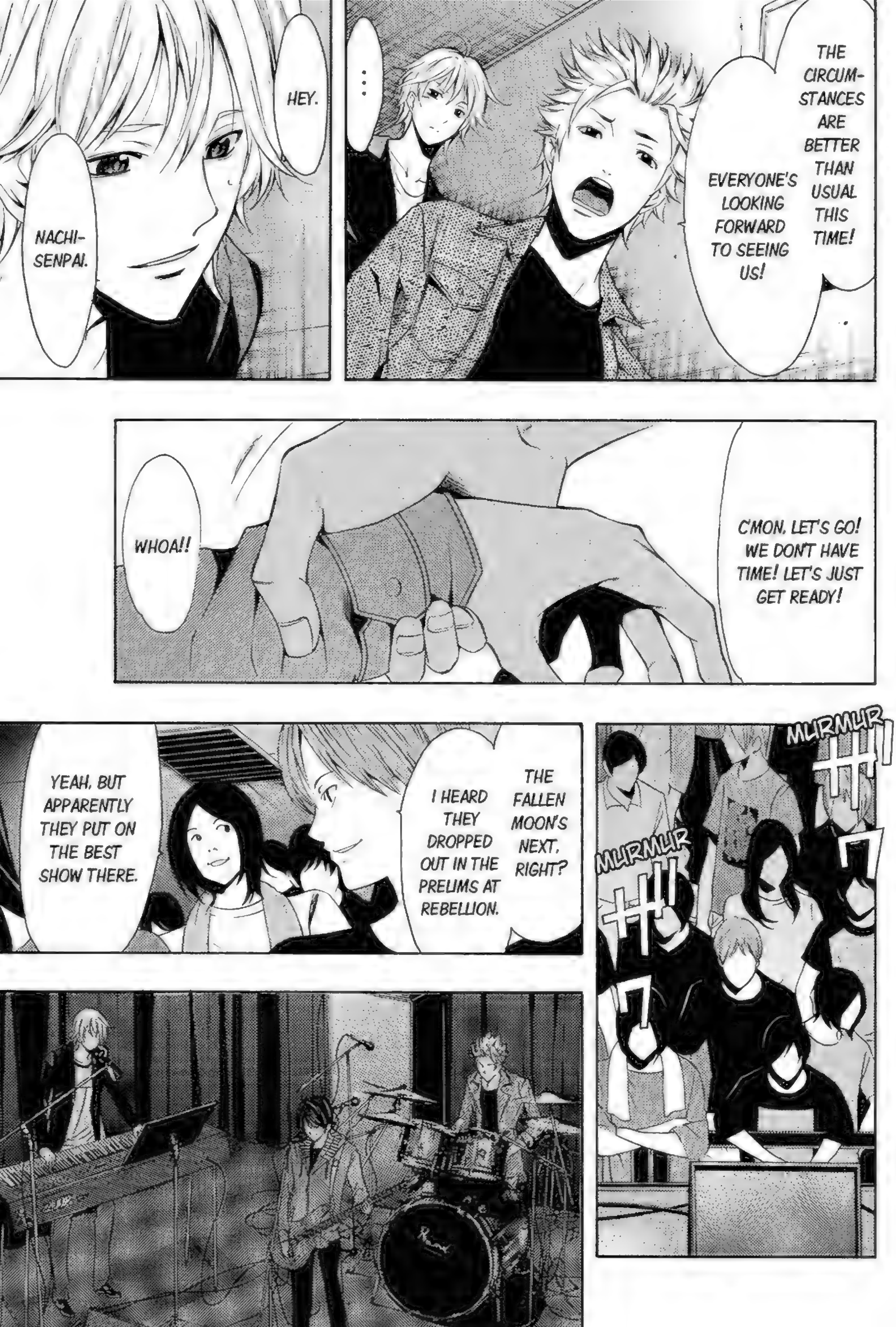

THE CROWD'S LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU…
…SO PUT ON A GREAT SHOW FOR US!
WE WILL!
…
?
WHAT'RE YOU SPACING OUT FOR?
HUH? OH. I WAS JUST A LITTLE SURPRISED.
I THOUGHT ALL CLUB OWNERS WERE SCARY GUYS.
I WAS JUST SURPRISED HE WAS SO FRIENDLY.
THAT GEEZER AT THE OTHER CLUB IS AN EXCEPTION.
JUST ONE LOOK AT US, AND HE STARTS GRIPING.
W-WELL, HE DID HAVE A REASON TO BE ANGRY WITH US.

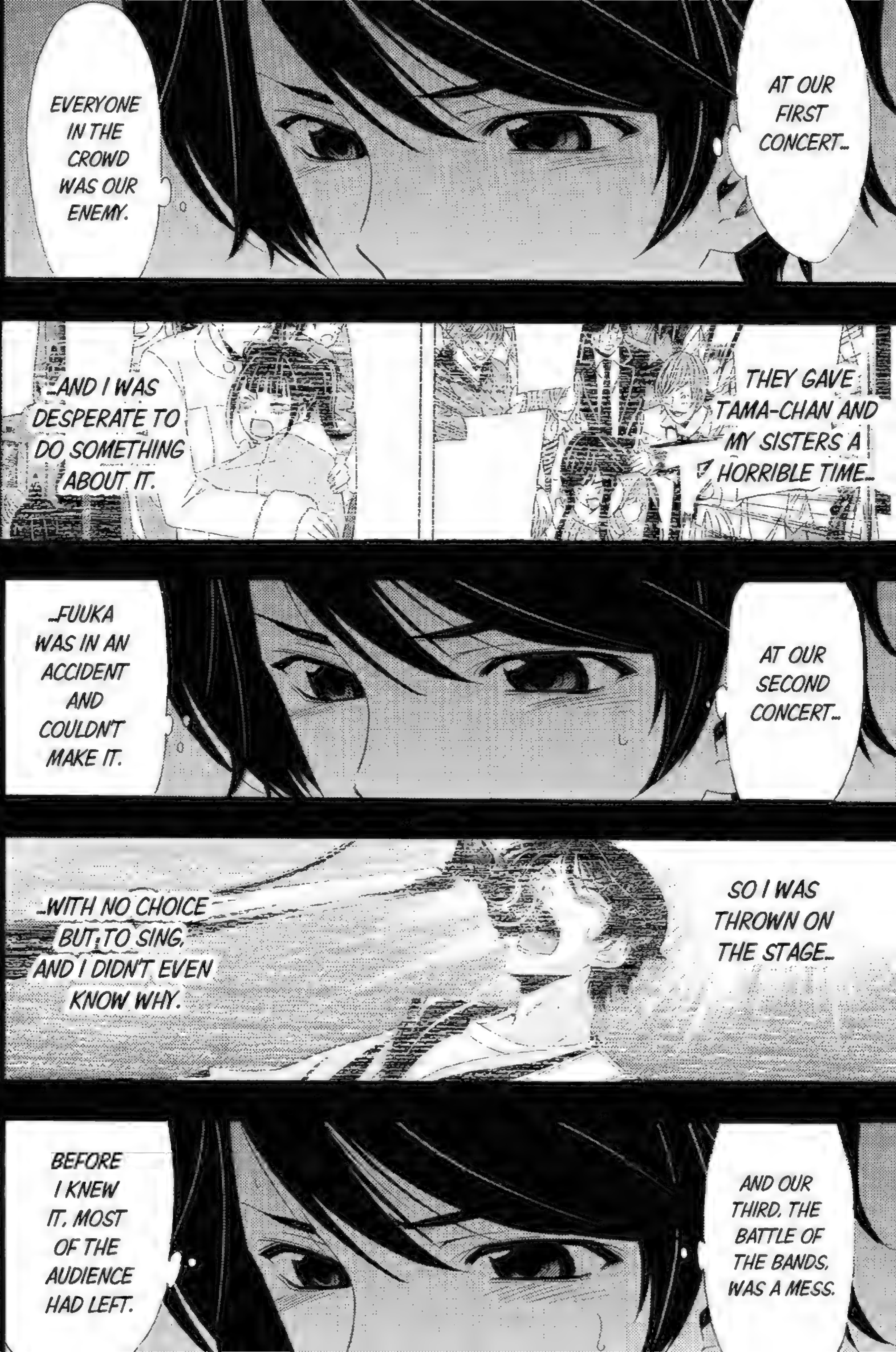

HEY, YOU GUYS! LONG TIME NO SEE!!
LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TODAY!!
WOW, HAS IT REALLY BEEN SINCE REBELLION?
…
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT WE'D RUN INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN HERE, HUH?
AH. UH--
WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?
SEE? I TOLD YOU THEY WOULDN'T REMEMBER US.
WE WERE IN THE PRELIMS WITH YOU! WE'RE NON STYLISH!!
S-SORRY...
I WAS PRETTY STRESSED THAT DAY.
WELL, IT'S ALL GOOD.
ALL THE OTHER BANDS ARE EXCITED TO PERFORM WITH YOU GUYS, TOO.
GIVE 'EM A KILLER SHOW JUST LIKE YOU DID LAST TIME, YEAH?

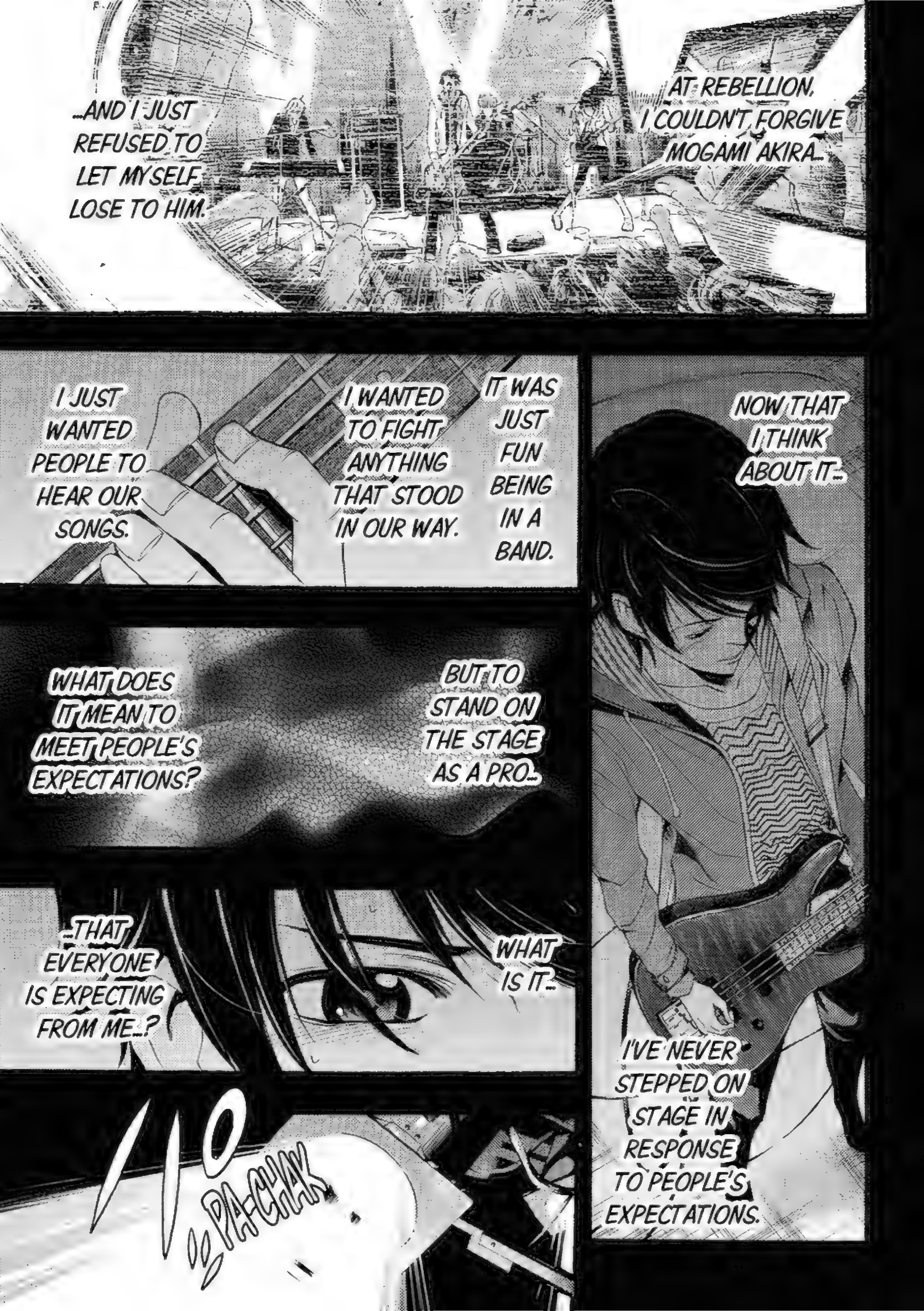

…
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE THIRD ON THE ROSTER.
LET'S GIVE IT OUR BEST LIKE WE ALWAYS DO, YUU-KUN.
HUH?
OH. YEAH.
…
I--! I'M GOING TO THE RESTROOM!!
HEY! HARUNA!!
I SWEAR, EVERY SINGLE TIME..
…

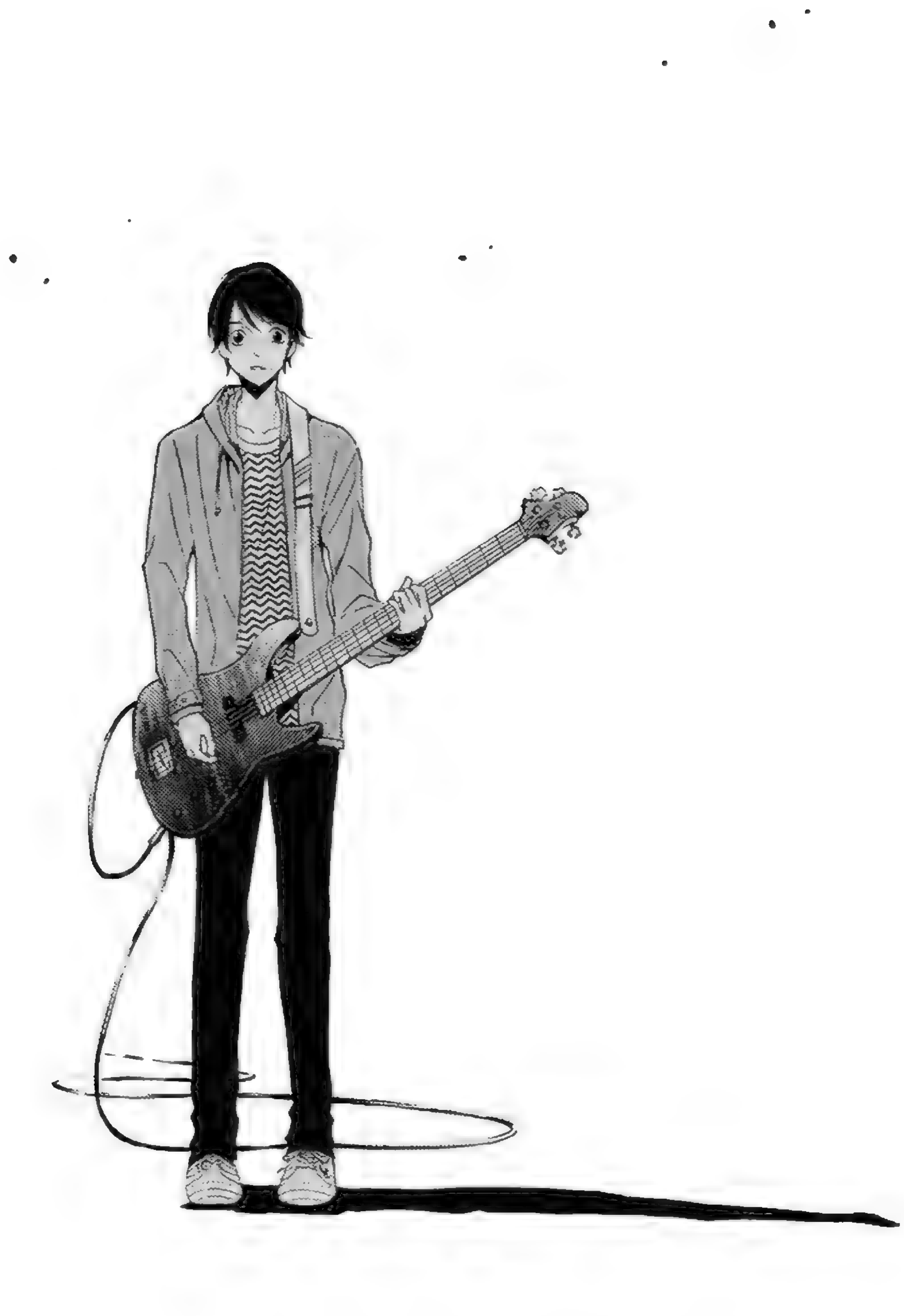

...
I GET IT.
PEOPLE ARE EXPECTING A LOT OF US.
...

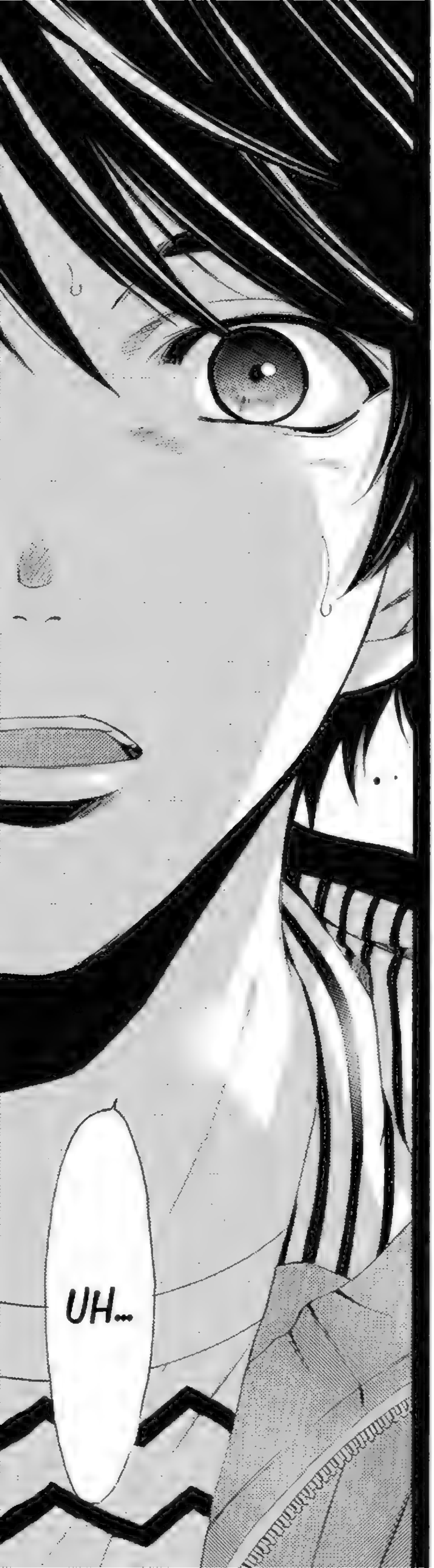

WOOOOO
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GONNA GO TO THE RESTROOM, HARUNA?!
WE'RE UP NEXT, YOU KNOW!
S-SORRY. I'M JUST NERVOUS.
I KNOW THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE HERE THAN AT OUR USUAL CLUB..
..BUT IT'S STILL ONLY ABOUT HALF THE SIZE OF THE CROWD AT REBELLION.
IF THIS IS ENOUGH TO GET TO YOU, A CROWD OF 1,300 AT EAST WILL KILL YOU.
NO--
I MEAN..
IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE NUMBERS AS THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I GUESS.

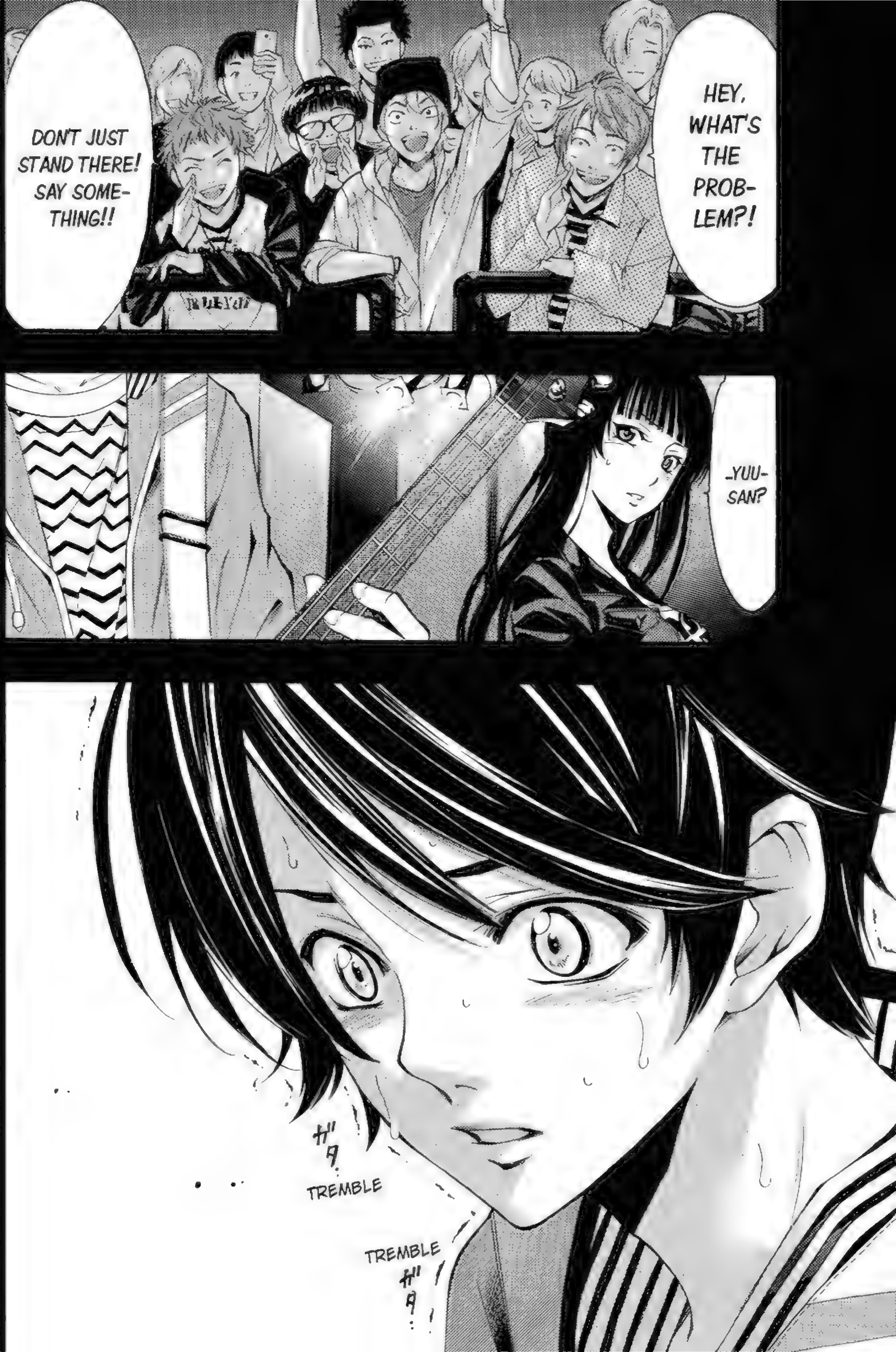

THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE BETTER THAN USUAL THIS TIME!
EVERYONE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING US!
...
HEY.
NACHI-SENPAI.
C'MON, LET'S GO! WE DON'T HAVE TIME! LET'S JUST GET READY!
WHOA!!
MURMUR
MURMUR
THE FALLEN MOON'S NEXT, RIGHT?
I HEARD THEY DROPPED OUT IN THE PRELIMS AT REBELLION.
YEAH, BUT APPARENTLY THEY PUT ON THE BEST SHOW THERE.

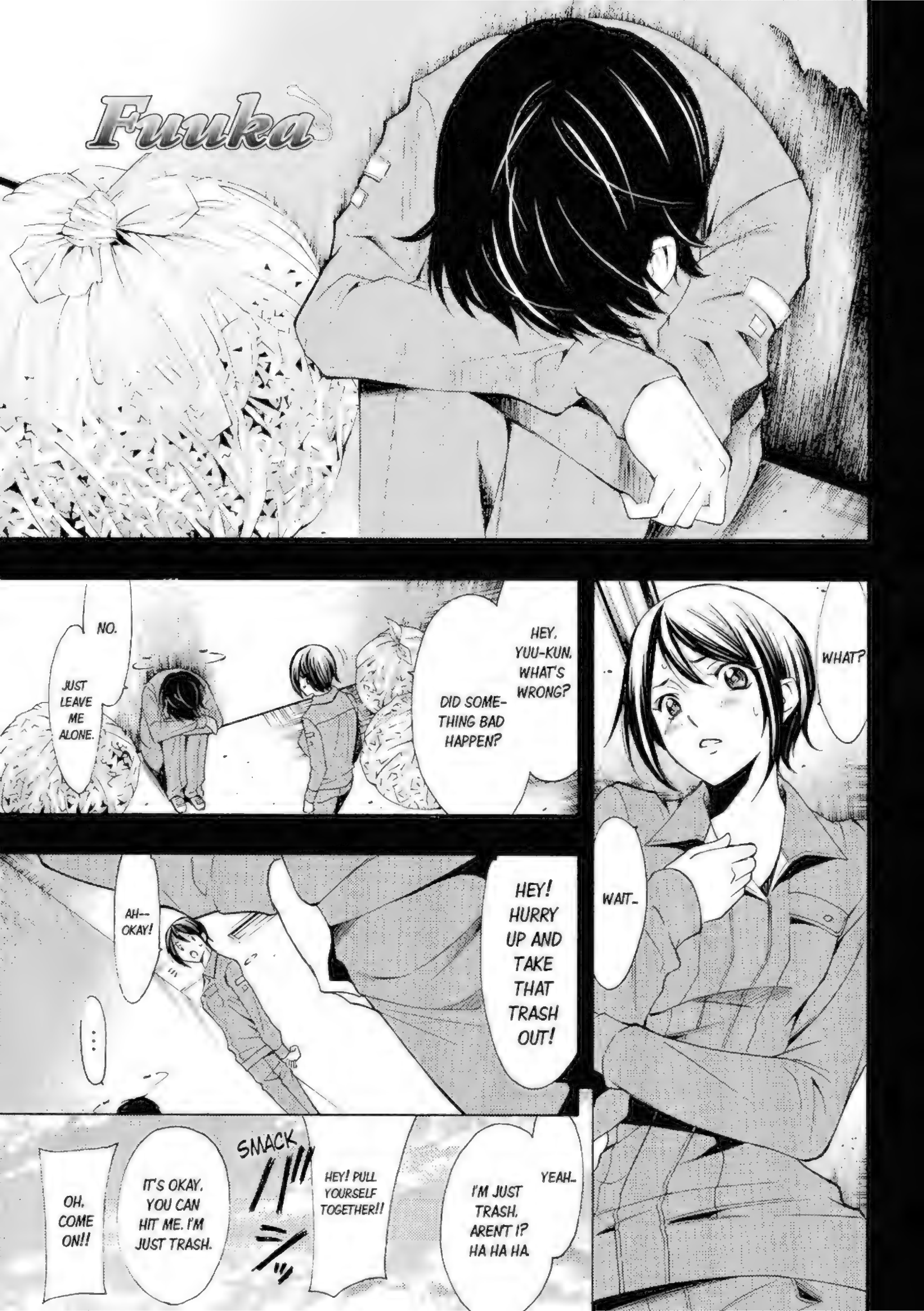

AT OUR FIRST CONCERT...
EVERYONE IN THE CROWD WAS OUR ENEMY.
THEY GAVE TAMA-CHAN AND MY SISTERS A HORRIBLE TIME...
...AND I WAS DESPERATE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
AT OUR SECOND CONCERT...
...FUUKA WAS IN AN ACCIDENT AND COULDN'T MAKE IT.
SO I WAS THROWN ON THE STAGE...
...WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO SING, AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHY.
AND OUR THIRD, THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS, WAS A MESS.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, MOST OF THE AUDIENCE HAD LEFT.


AT REBELLION, I COULDN'T FORGIVE MOGAMI AKIRA...
...AND I JUST REFUSED TO LET MYSELF LOSE TO HIM.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
I'VE NEVER STEPPED ON STAGE IN RESPONSE TO PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS.
IT WAS JUST FUN BEING IN A BAND.
I WANTED TO FIGHT ANYTHING THAT STOOD IN OUR WAY.
I JUST WANTED PEOPLE TO HEAR OUR SONGS.
BUT TO STAND ON THE STAGE AS A PRO...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MEET PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS?
WHAT IS IT...
...THAT EVERYONE IS EXPECTING FROM ME...?
PA-CHAK

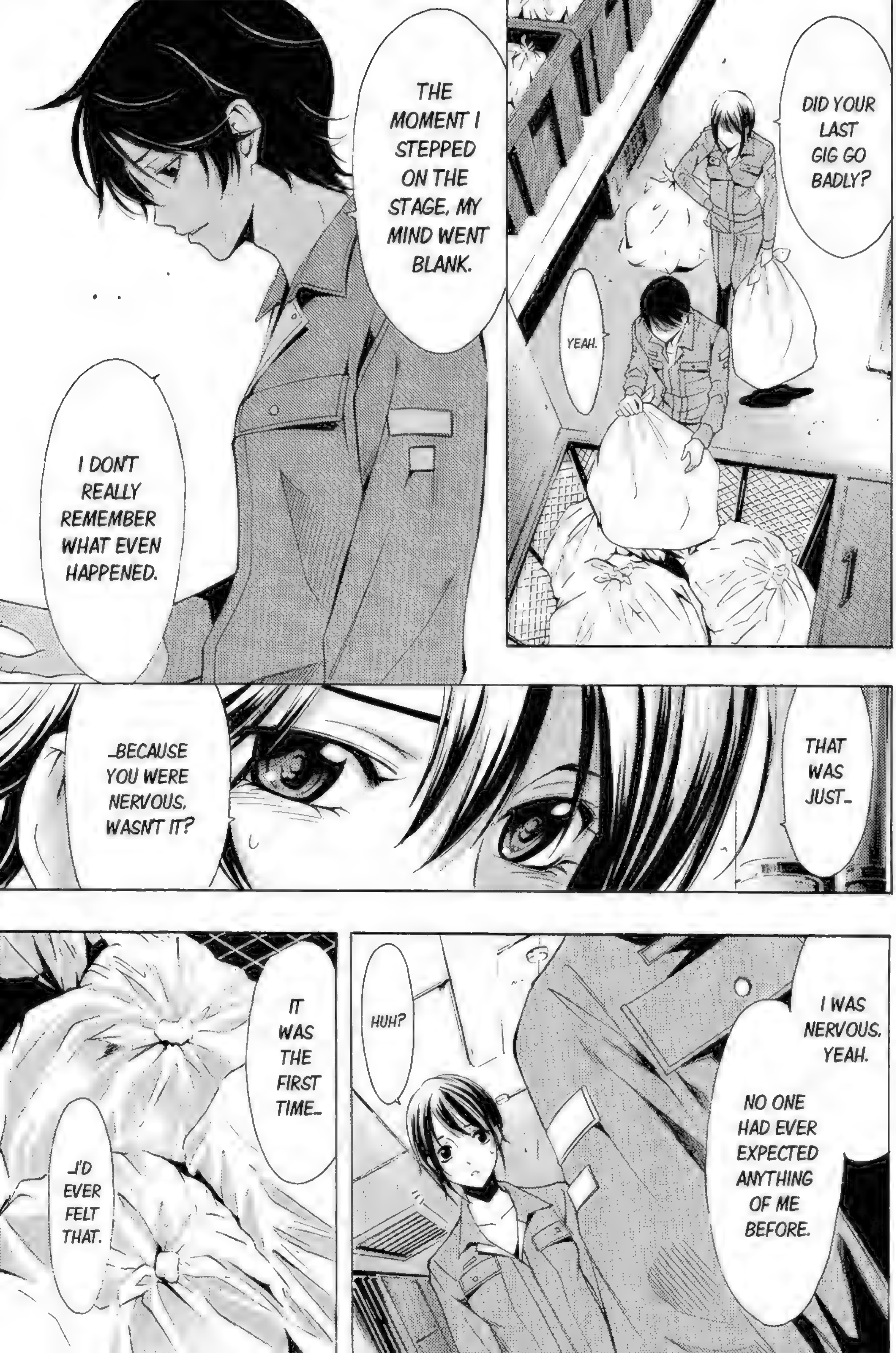


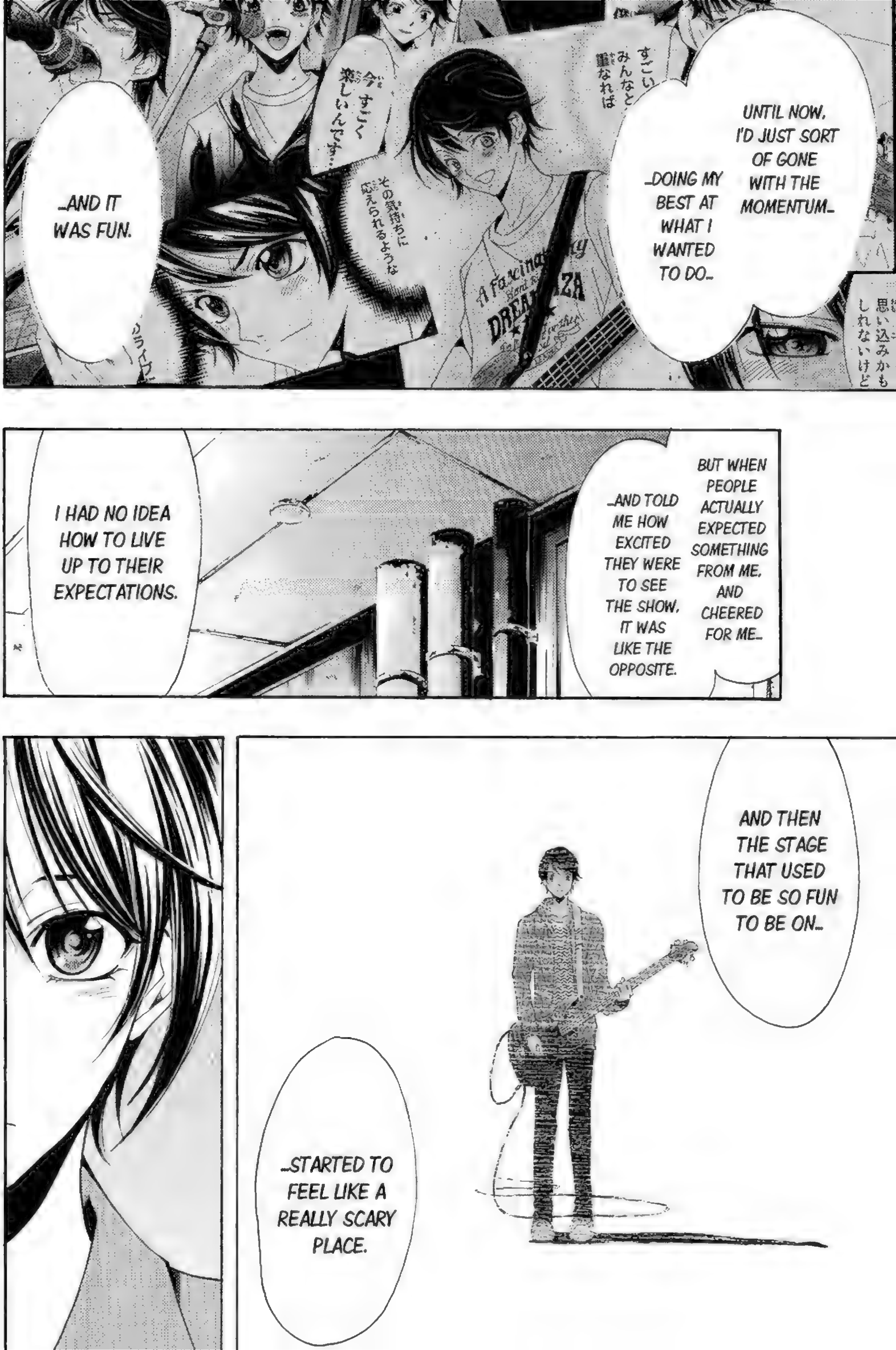

UH...

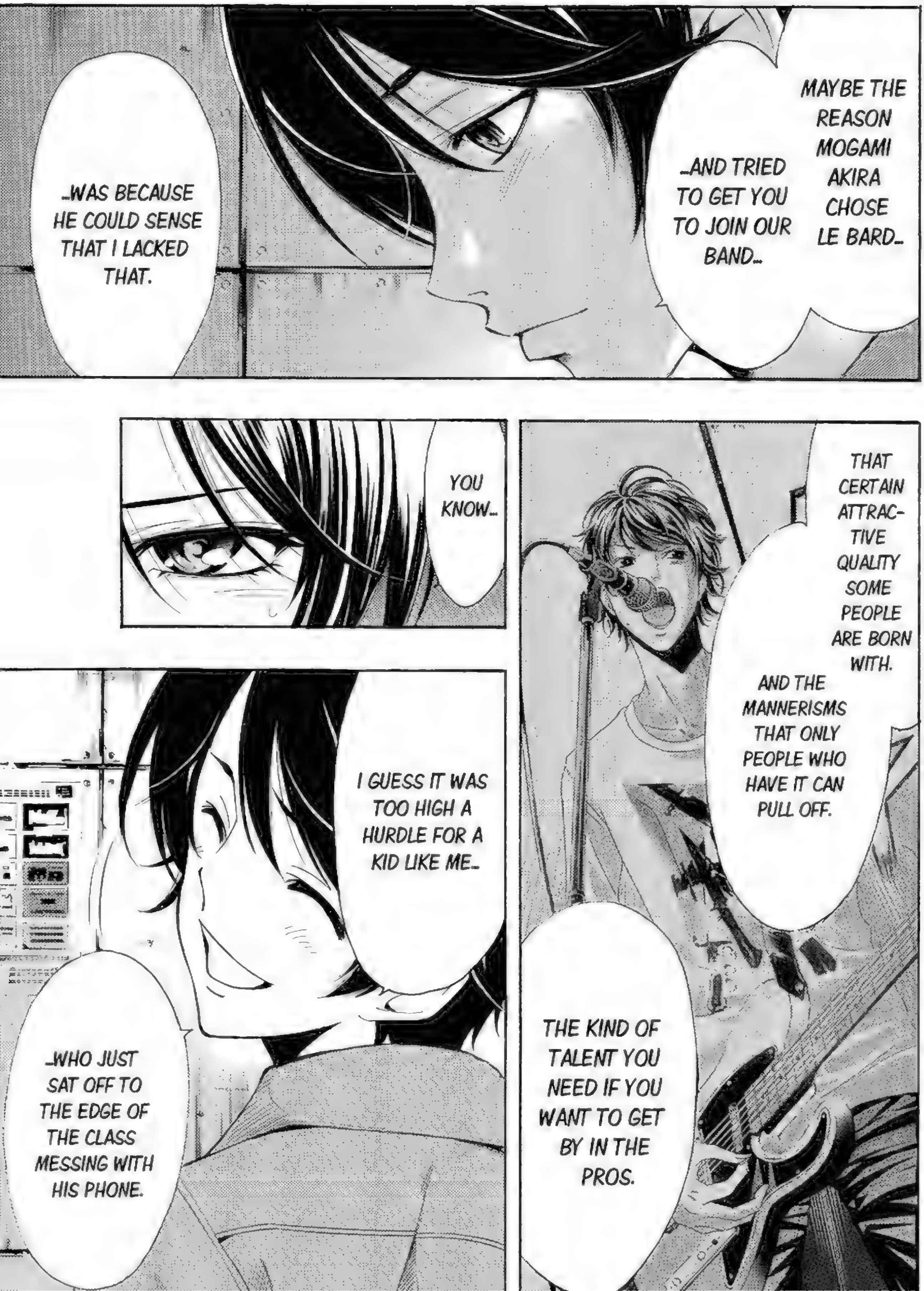

HEY, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! SAY SOMETHING!!
-YUU-SAN?
..
. . ..
ガタ TREMBLE
TREMBLE ガタ...

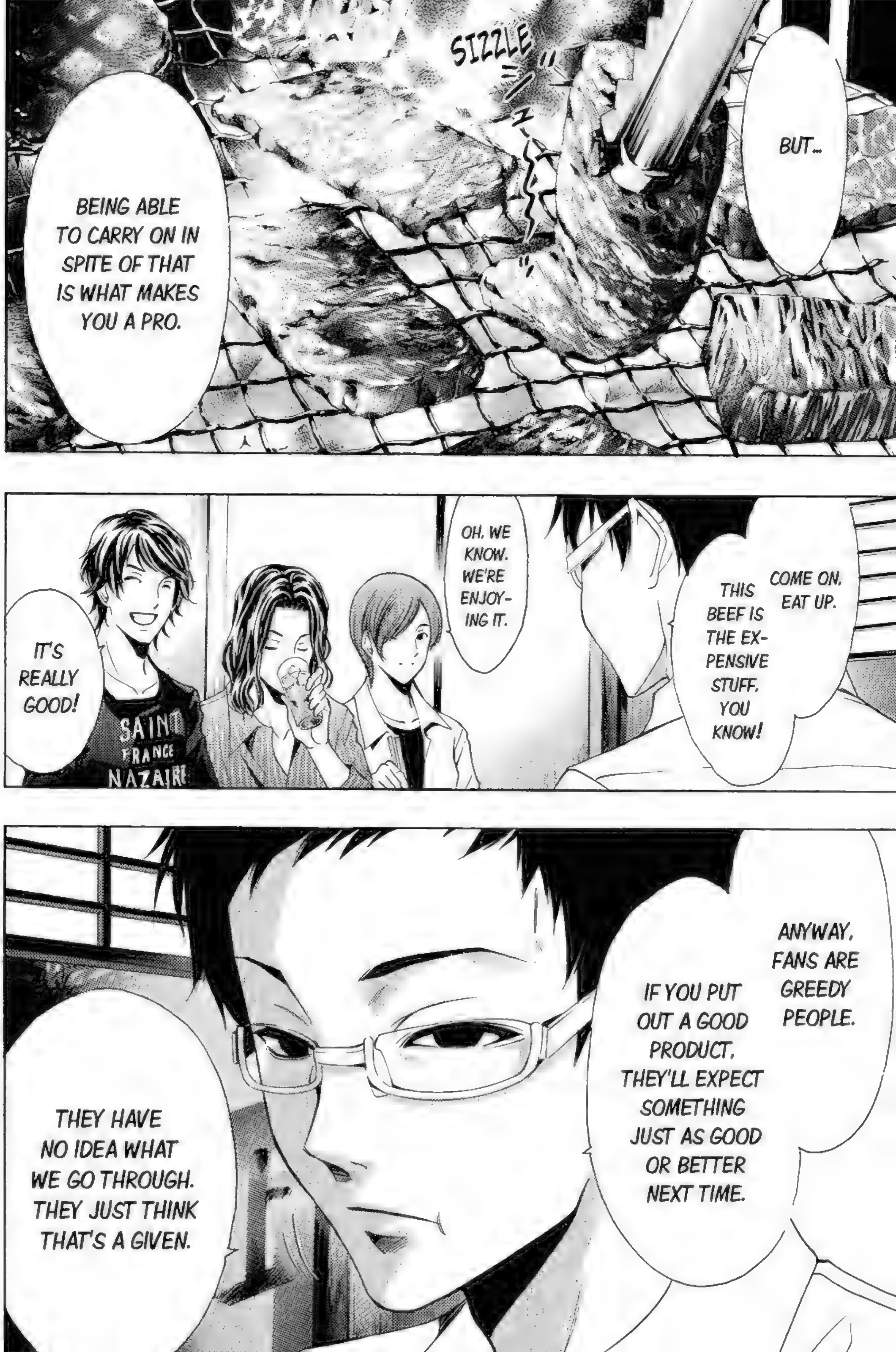

Fuuka
HEY, YUU-KUN, WHAT'S WRONG?
DID SOME-THING BAD HAPPEN?
NO.
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.
HEY! HURRY UP AND TAKE THAT TRASH OUT!
AH-- OKAY!
...
WHAT?
WAIT...
YEAH...
I'M JUST TRASH, ARENT I? HA HA HA
HEY! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!!
SMACK
IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN HIT ME. I'M JUST TRASH.
OH, COME ON!!

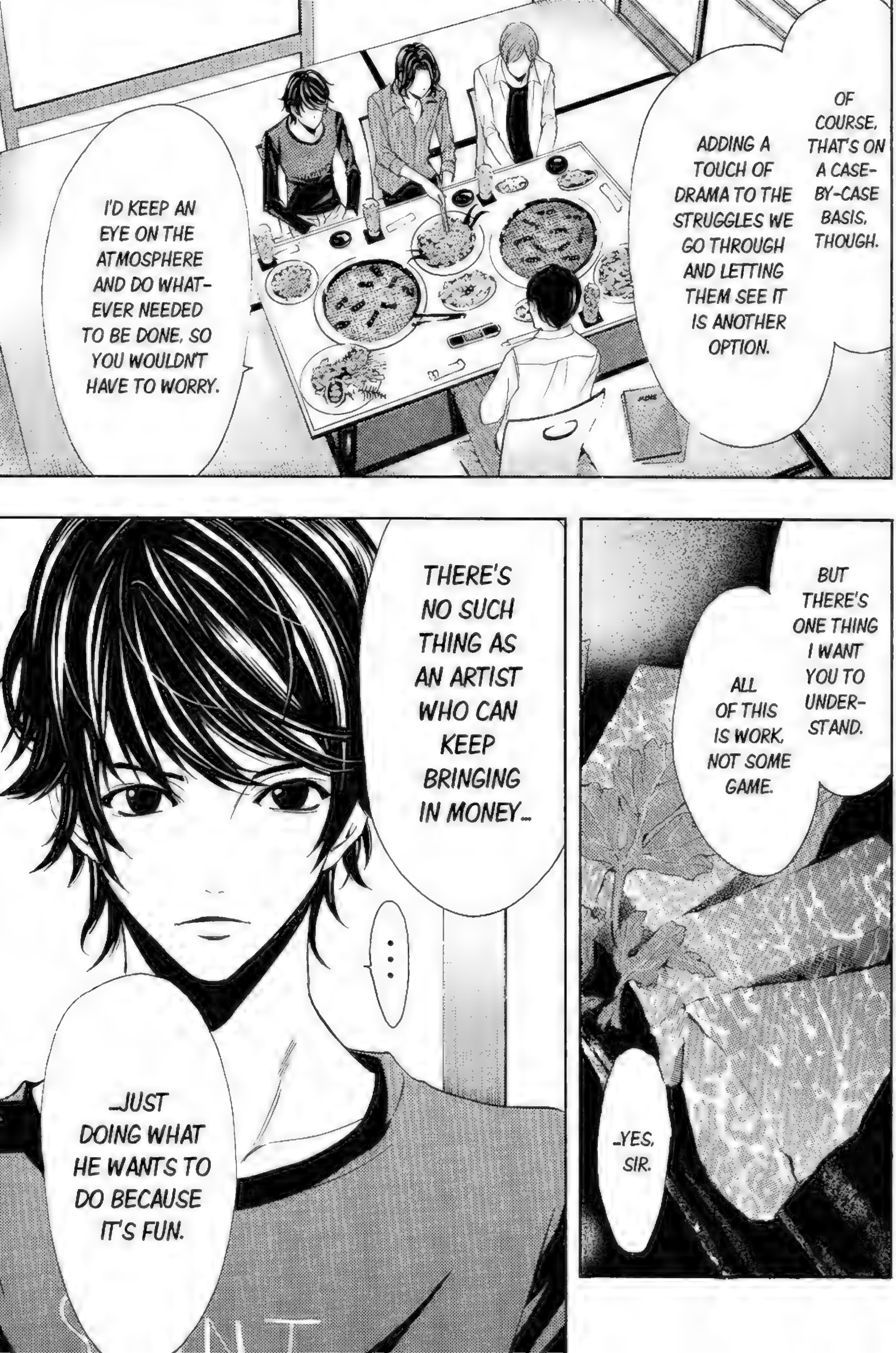
64 WHAT'S FUN.

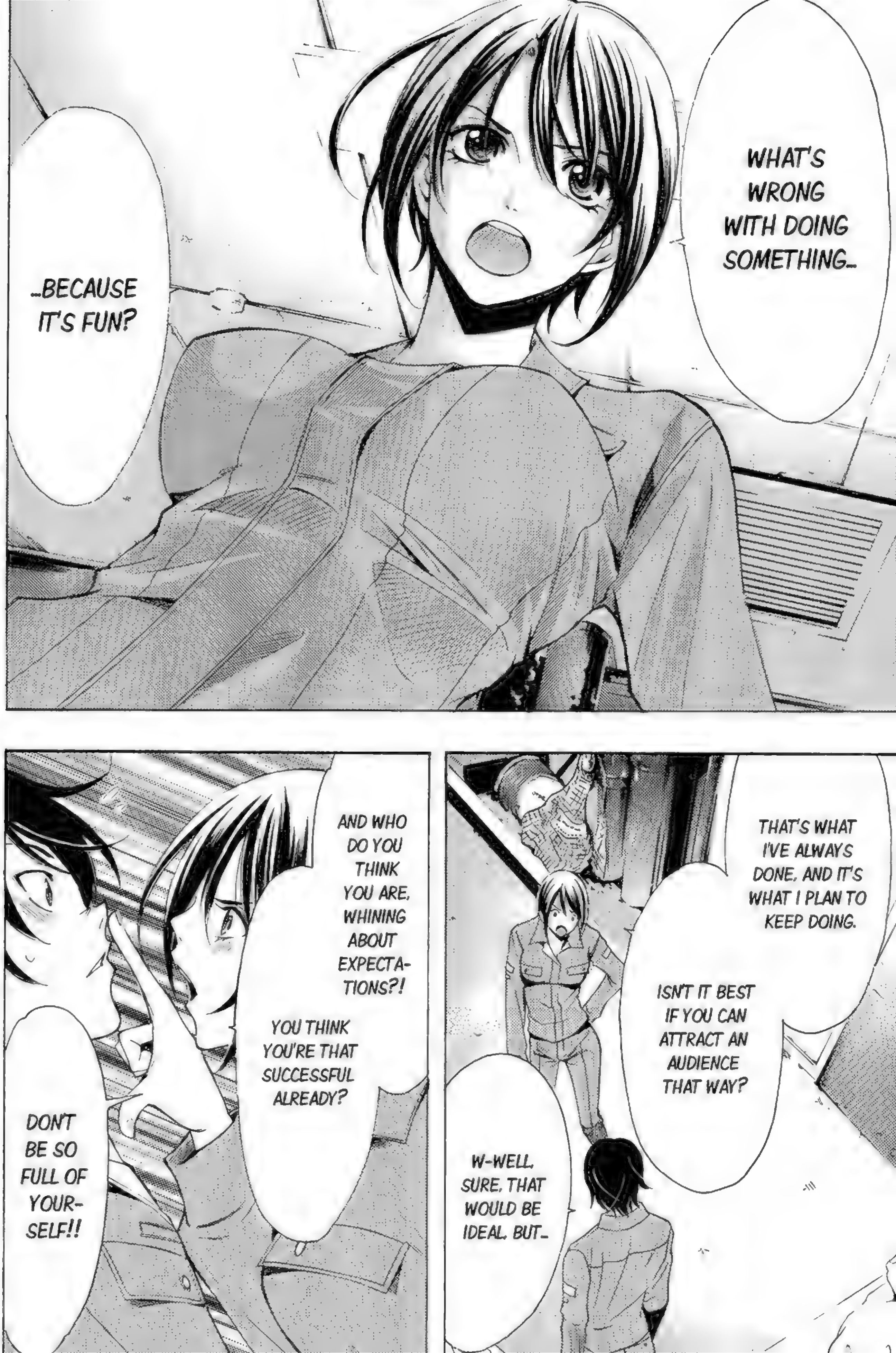

DID YOUR LAST GIG GO BADLY?
YEAH.
THE MOMENT I STEPPED ON THE STAGE, MY MIND WENT BLANK.
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER WHAT EVEN HAPPENED.
THAT WAS JUST…
…BECAUSE YOU WERE NERVOUS, WASN'T IT?
I WAS NERVOUS, YEAH.
NO ONE HAD EVER EXPECTED ANYTHING OF ME BEFORE.
HUH?
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME…
…I'D EVER FELT THAT.

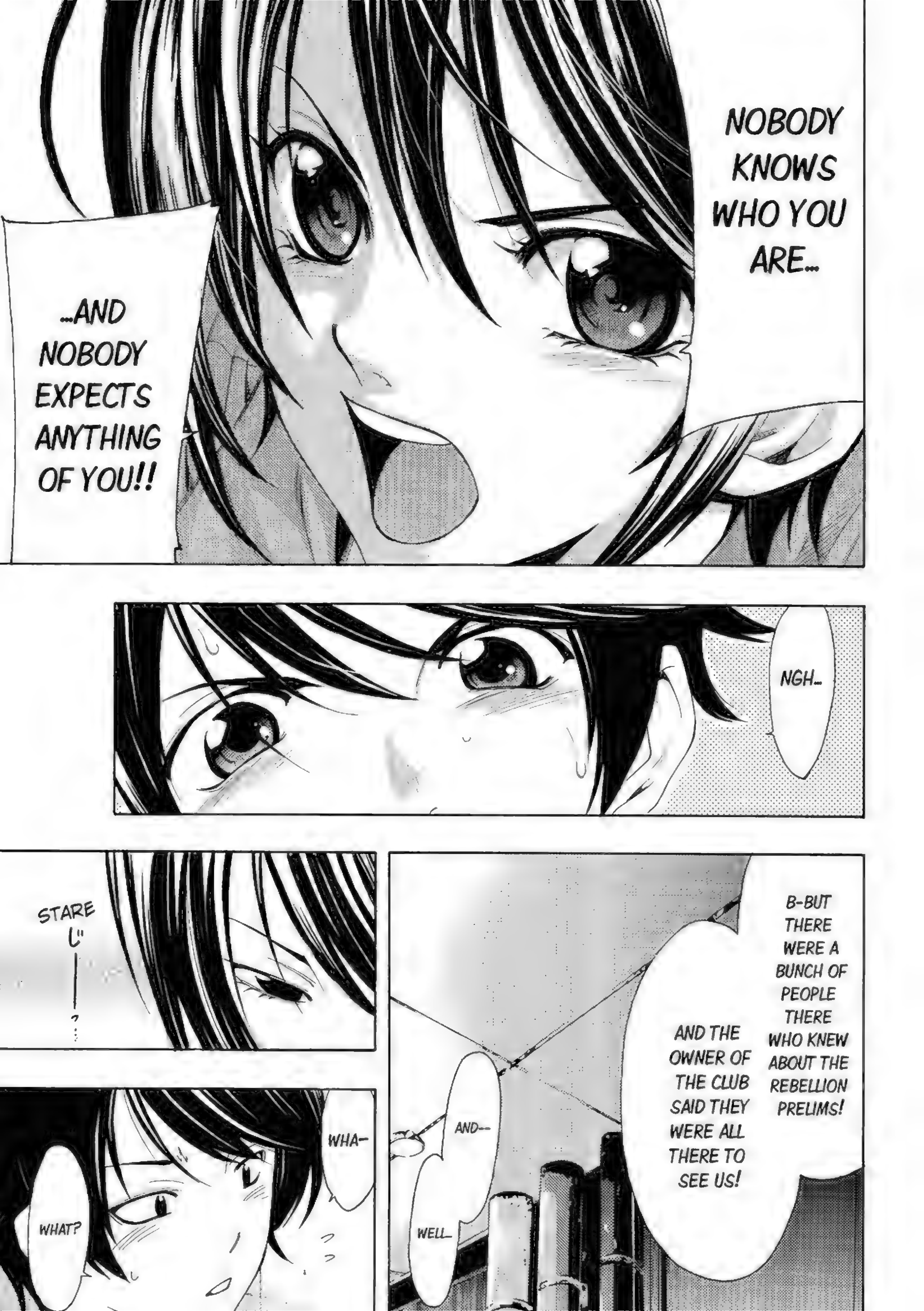

UNTIL NOW, I'D JUST SORT OF GONE WITH THE MOMENTUM...
...DOING MY BEST AT WHAT I WANTED TO DO...
思い込みかも しれないけど
すごい みんなと 重なれば
今は すごく 楽しいんです…
その気持ちに 応えられるような
...AND IT WAS FUN.
BUT WHEN PEOPLE ACTUALLY EXPECTED SOMETHING FROM ME, AND CHEERED FOR ME...
...AND TOLD ME HOW EXCITED THEY WERE TO SEE THE SHOW, IT WAS LIKE THE OPPOSITE.
I HAD NO IDEA HOW TO LIVE UP TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS.
AND THEN THE STAGE THAT USED TO BE SO FUN TO BE ON...
...STARTED TO FEEL LIKE A REALLY SCARY PLACE.

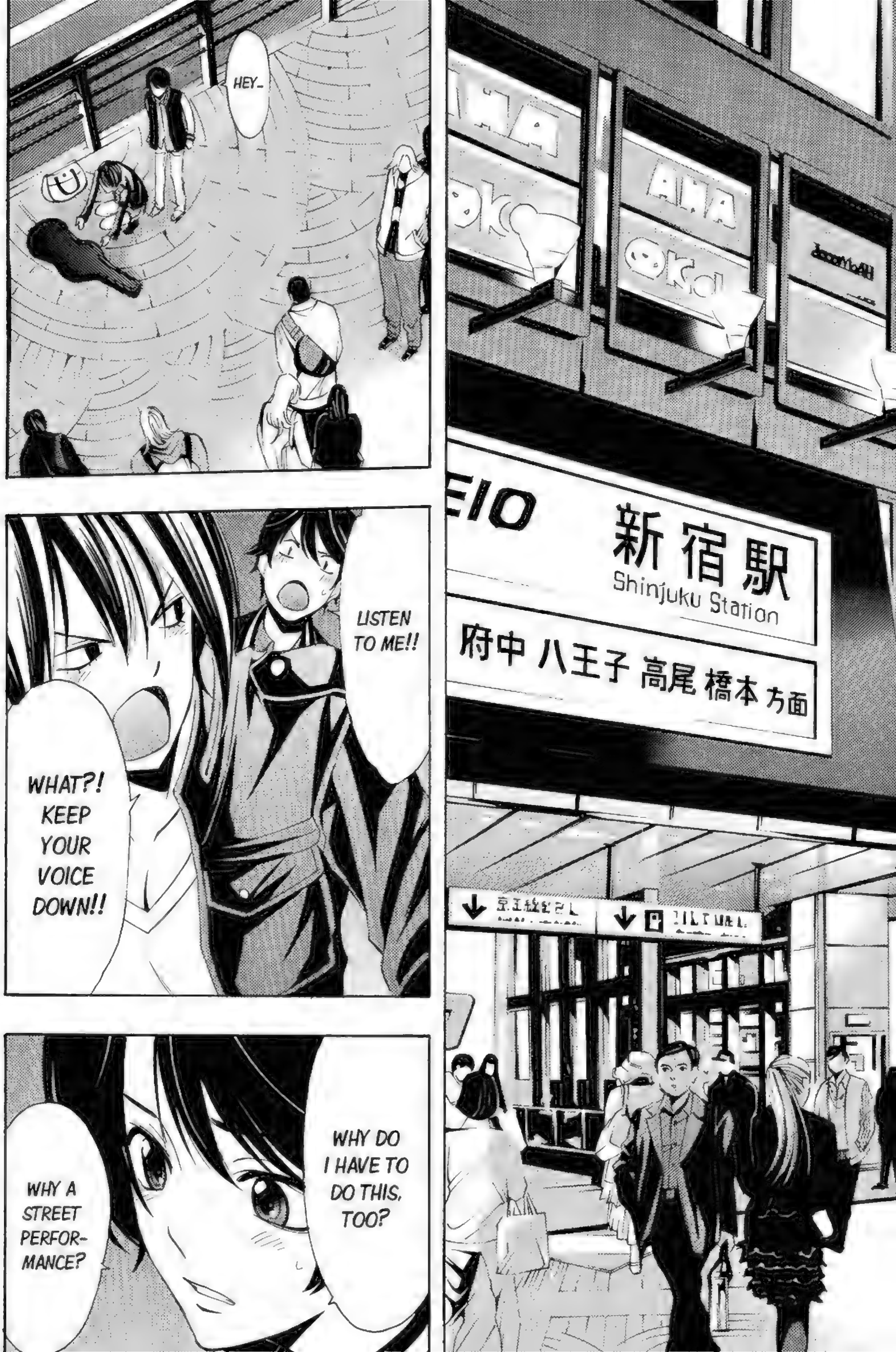

MAYBE THE REASON MOGAMI AKIRA CHOSE LE BARD...
...AND TRIED TO GET YOU TO JOIN OUR BAND...
...WAS BECAUSE HE COULD SENSE THAT I LACKED THAT.
YOU KNOW...
THAT CERTAIN ATTRACTIVE QUALITY SOME PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH.
AND THE MANNERISMS THAT ONLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE IT CAN PULL OFF.
THE KIND OF TALENT YOU NEED IF YOU WANT TO GET BY IN THE PROS.
I GUESS IT WAS TOO HIGH A HURDLE FOR A KID LIKE ME...
...WHO JUST SAT OFF TO THE EDGE OF THE CLASS MESSING WITH HIS PHONE.

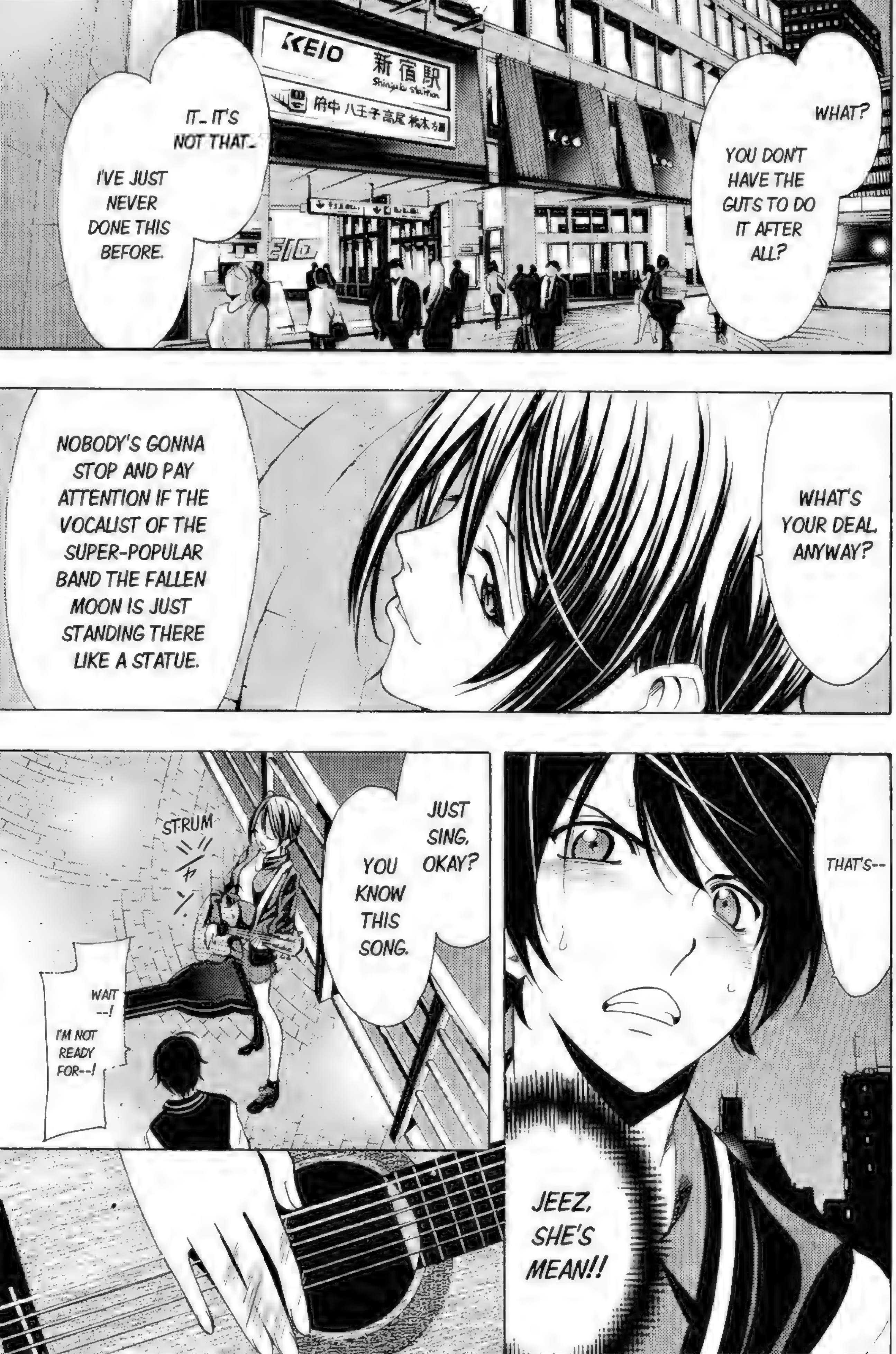

SIZZLE
BUT...
BEING ABLE TO CARRY ON IN SPITE OF THAT IS WHAT MAKES YOU A PRO.
COME ON, EAT UP.
THIS BEEF IS THE EXPENSIVE STUFF, YOU KNOW!
OH, WE KNOW. WE'RE ENJOYING IT.
IT'S REALLY GOOD!
SAINT FRANCE NAZAIRE
ANYWAY, FANS ARE GREEDY PEOPLE.
IF YOU PUT OUT A GOOD PRODUCT, THEY'LL EXPECT SOMETHING JUST AS GOOD OR BETTER NEXT TIME.
THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE GO THROUGH. THEY JUST THINK THAT'S A GIVEN.

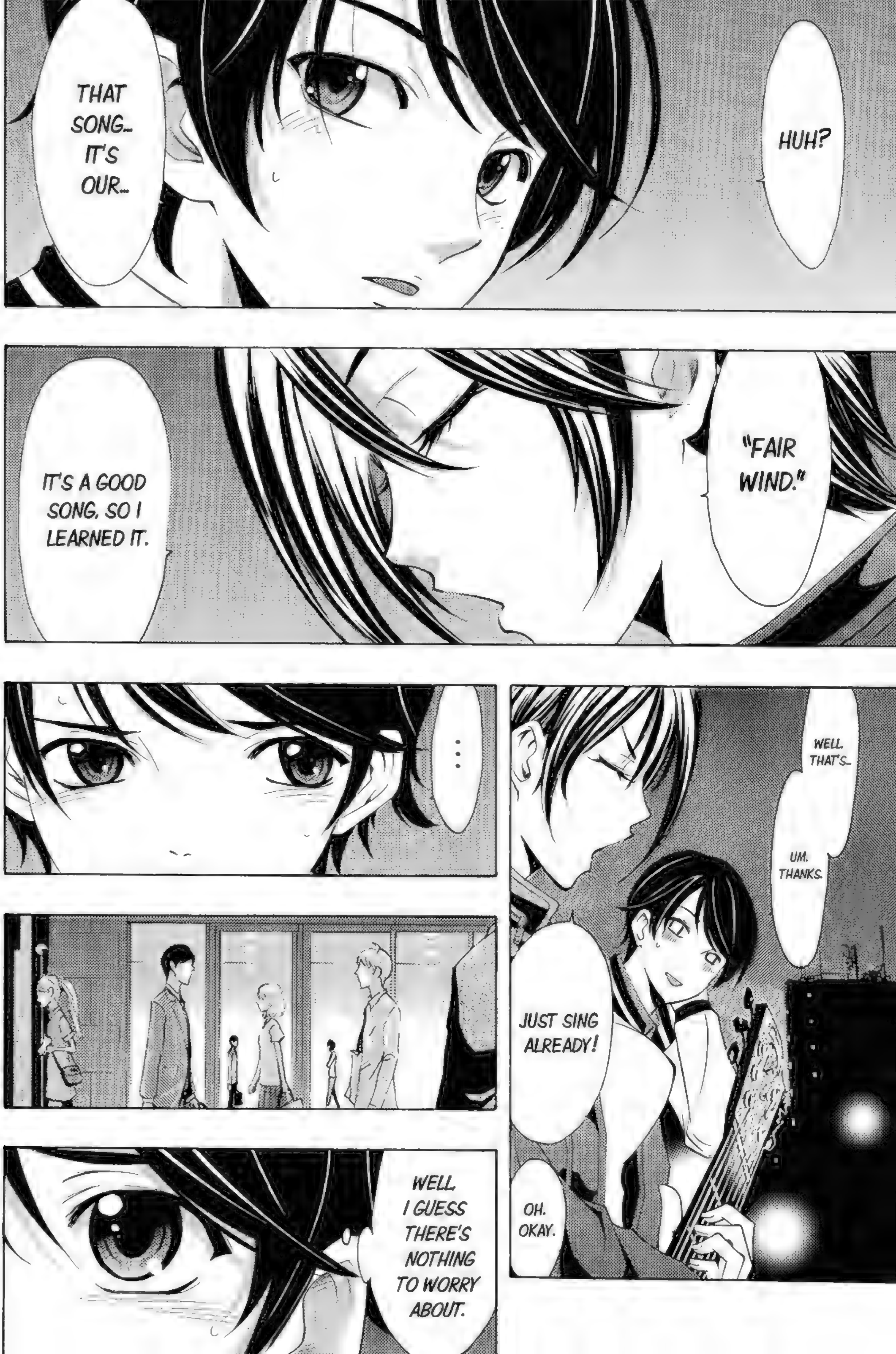

I'D KEEP AN EYE ON THE ATMOSPHERE AND DO WHATEVER NEEDED TO BE DONE, SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY.
ADDING A TOUCH OF DRAMA TO THE STRUGGLES WE GO THROUGH AND LETTING THEM SEE IT IS ANOTHER OPTION.
OF COURSE, THAT'S ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, THOUGH.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN ARTIST WHO CAN KEEP BRINGING IN MONEY…
…
…JUST DOING WHAT HE WANTS TO DO BECAUSE IT'S FUN.
BUT THERE'S ONE THING I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.
ALL OF THIS IS WORK, NOT SOME GAME.
…YES, SIR.

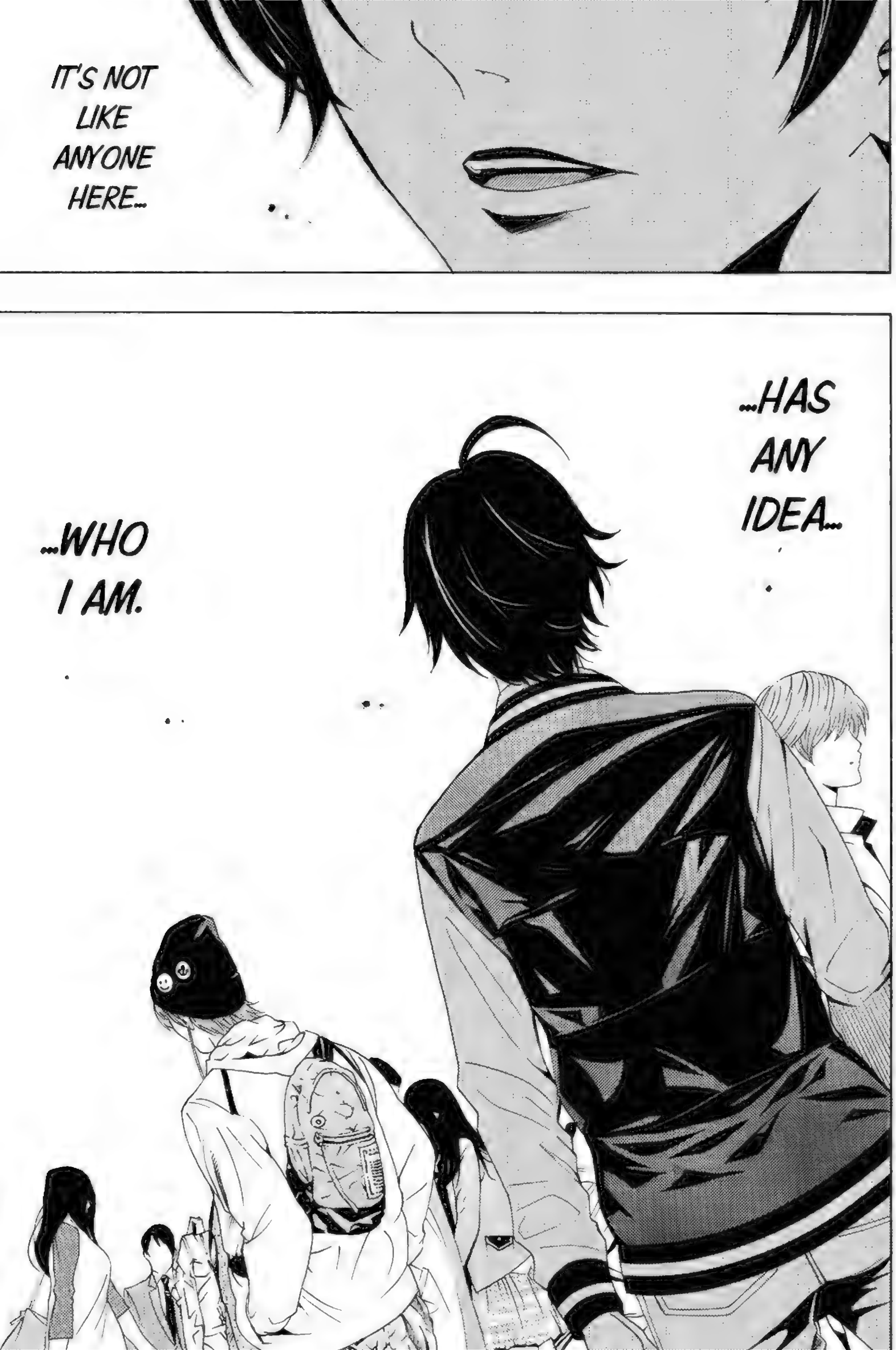

WHAT'S WRONG WITH DOING SOMETHING...
...BECAUSE IT'S FUN?
THAT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE, AND IT'S WHAT I PLAN TO KEEP DOING.
ISN'T IT BEST IF YOU CAN ATTRACT AN AUDIENCE THAT WAY?
W-WELL, SURE, THAT WOULD BE IDEAL, BUT...
AND WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, WHINING ABOUT EXPECTATIONS?!
YOU THINK YOU'RE THAT SUCCESSFUL ALREADY?
DON'T BE SO FULL OF YOURSELF!!

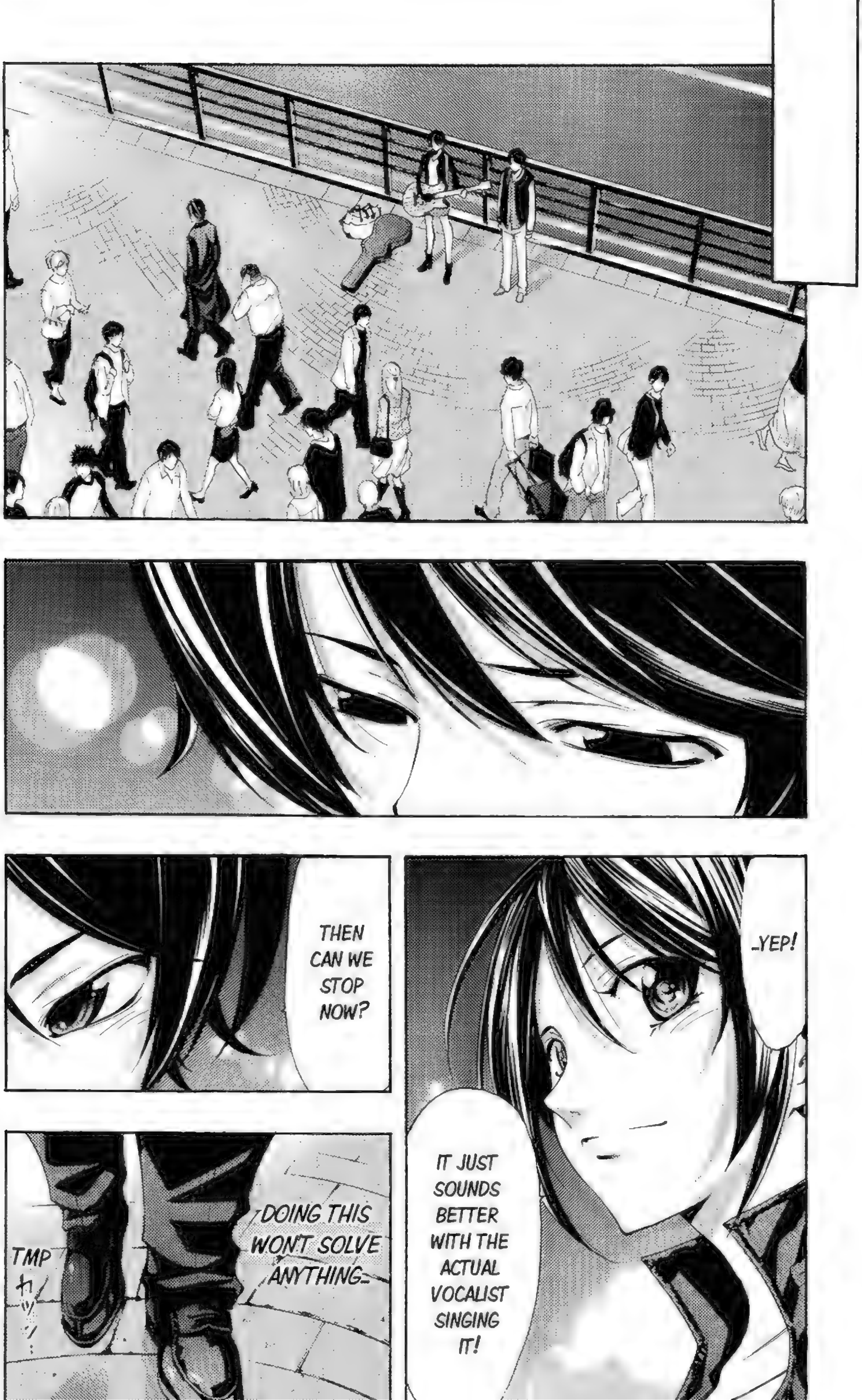

NOBODY KNOWS WHO YOU ARE...
...AND NOBODY EXPECTS ANYTHING OF YOU!!
NGH...
B-BUT THERE WERE A BUNCH OF PEOPLE THERE WHO KNEW ABOUT THE REBELLION PRELIMS!
AND THE OWNER OF THE CLUB SAID THEY WERE ALL THERE TO SEE US!
AND--
WELL...
STARE
じーーー…
WHA-
WHAT?

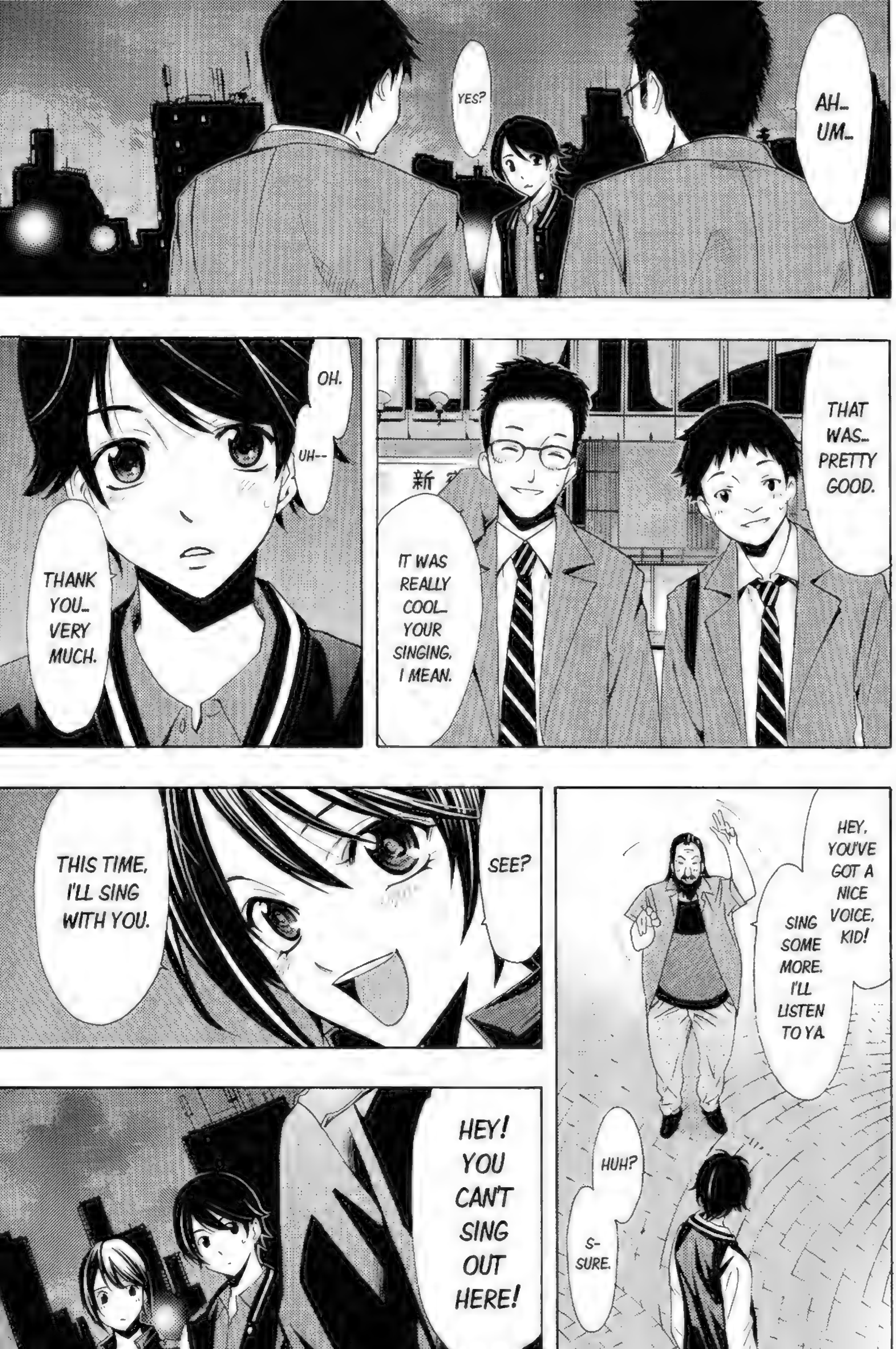

EIO
新宿駅
Shinjuku Station
府中 八王子 高尾 橋本 方面
HEY...
LISTEN TO ME!!
WHAT?! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!!
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS, TOO?
WHY A STREET PERFORMANCE?

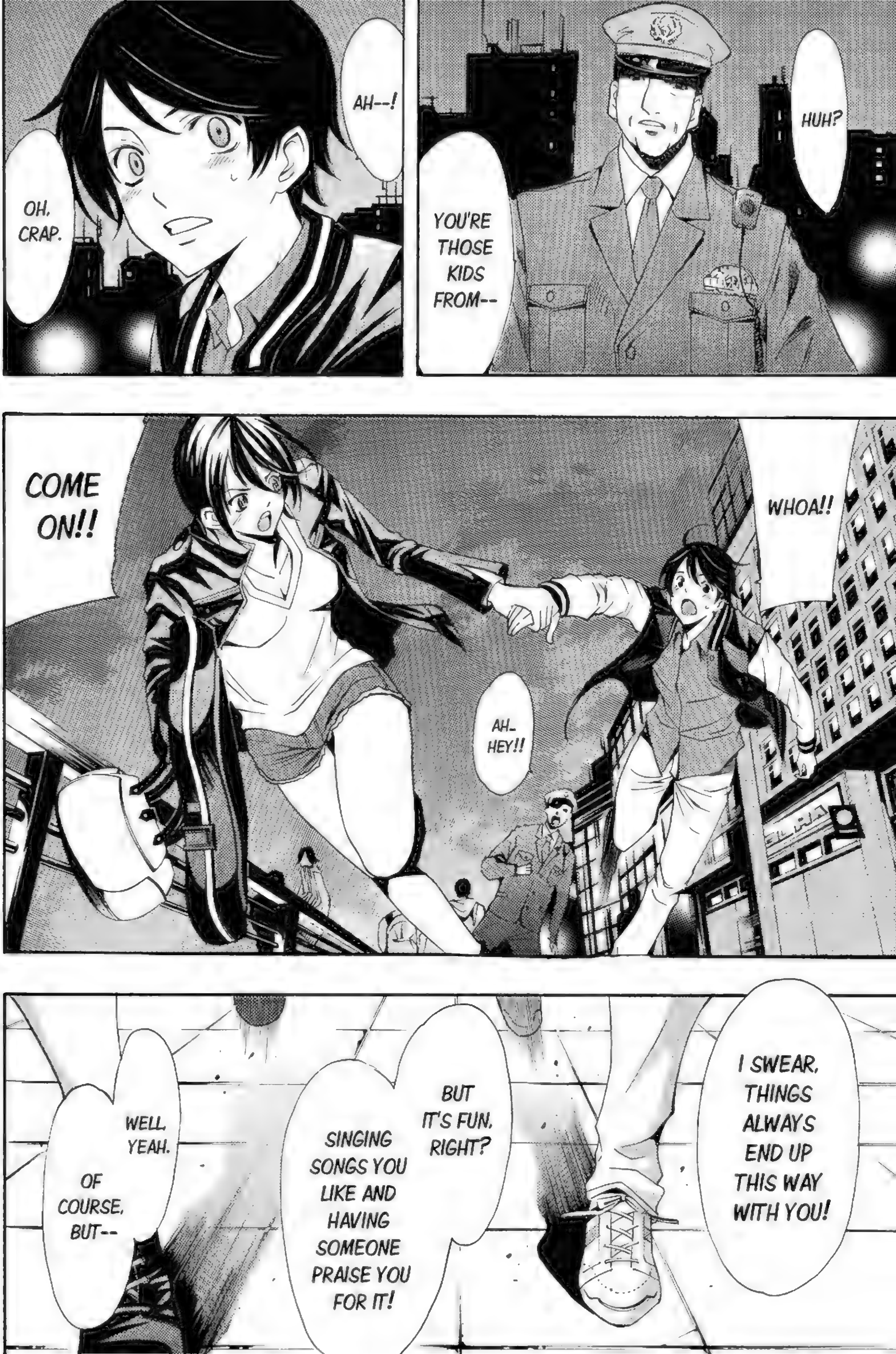

KEIO
新宿駅
Shinjuku station
府中 八王子 高尾
WHAT?
YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO DO IT AFTER ALL?
IT... IT'S NOT THAT...
I'VE JUST NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE.
WHAT'S YOUR DEAL, ANYWAY?
NOBODY'S GONNA STOP AND PAY ATTENTION IF THE VOCALIST OF THE SUPER-POPULAR BAND THE FALLEN MOON IS JUST STANDING THERE LIKE A STATUE.
THAT'S--
JUST SING, OKAY?
YOU KNOW THIS SONG.
STRUM
WAIT--!
I'M NOT READY FOR--!
JEEZ, SHE'S MEAN!!

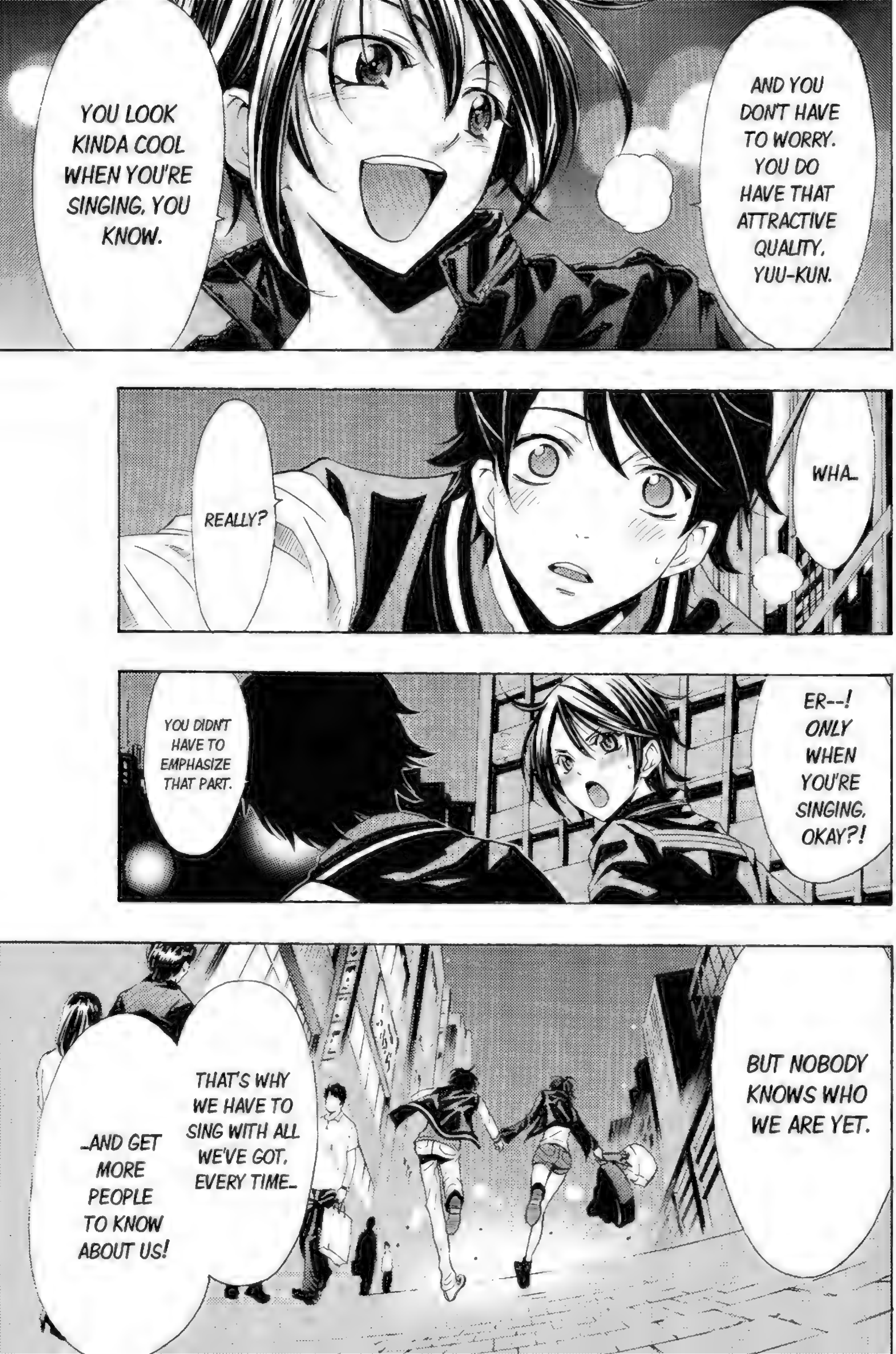

HUH?
THAT SONG... IT'S OUR...
"FAIR WIND."
IT'S A GOOD SONG, SO I LEARNED IT.
WELL THAT'S...
UM. THANKS.
JUST SING ALREADY!
OH. OKAY.
...
WELL I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

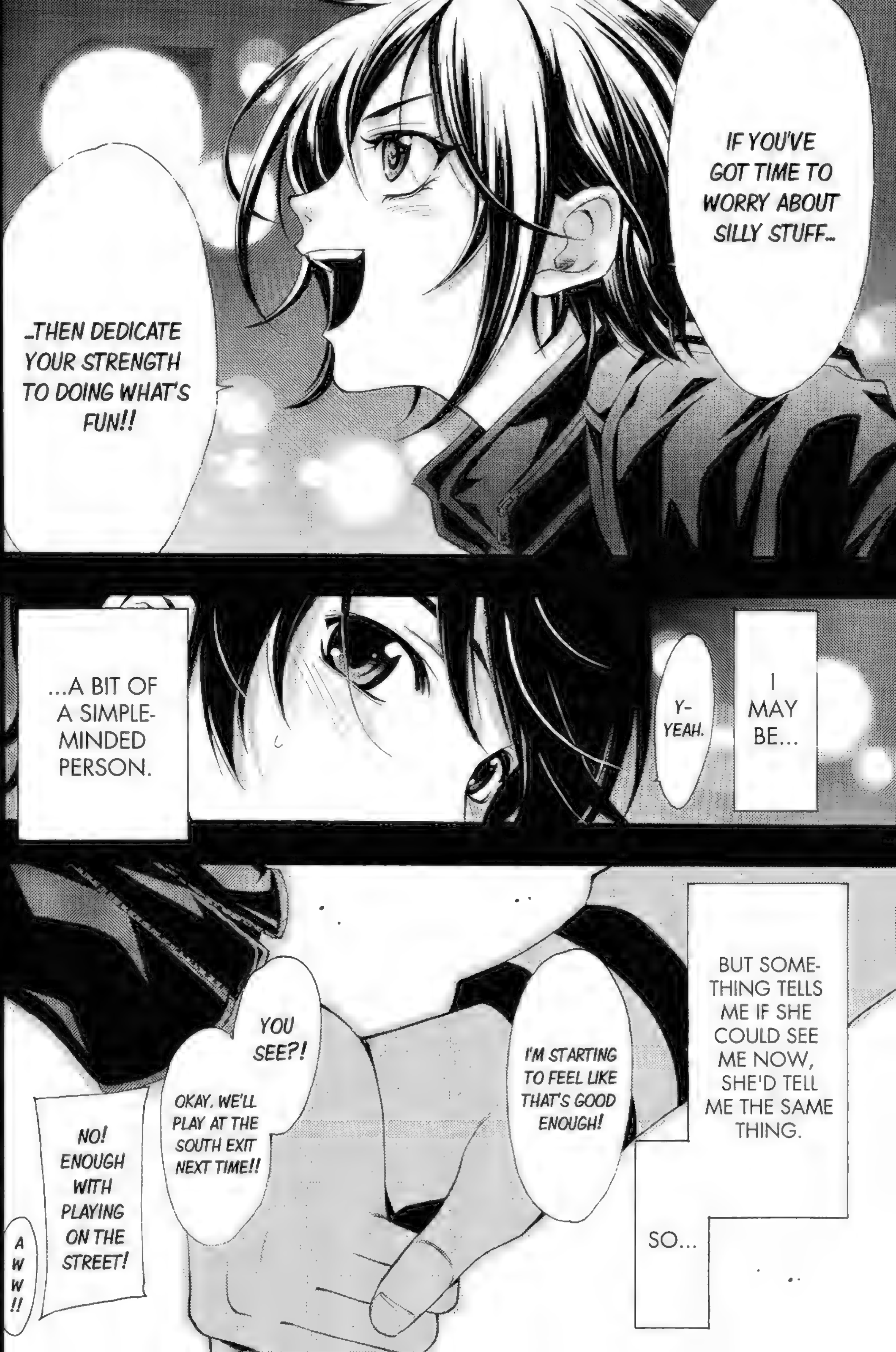

IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE HERE...
...HAS ANY IDEA...
...WHO I AM.

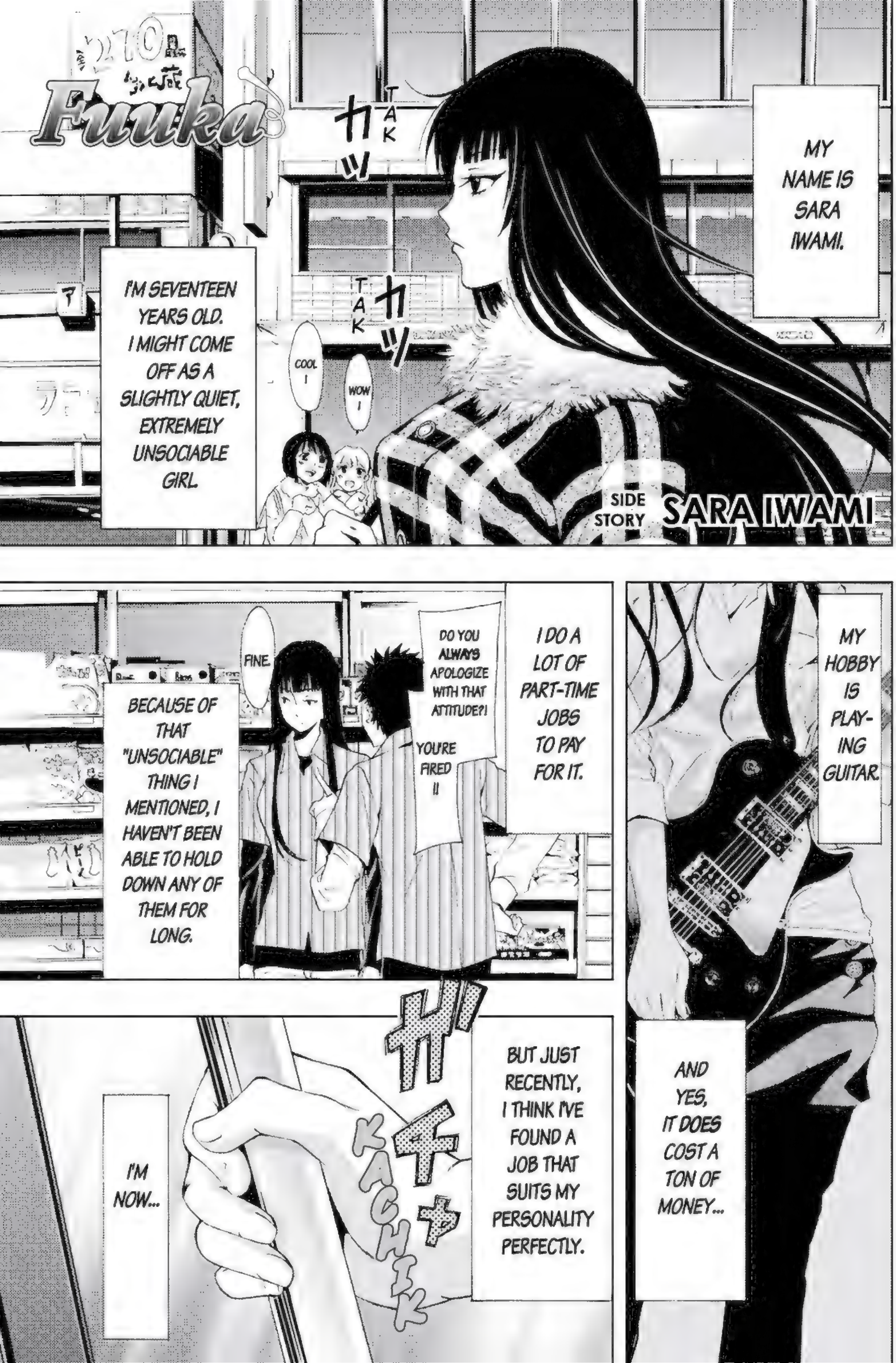

...YEP!
IT JUST SOUNDS BETTER WITH THE ACTUAL VOCALIST SINGING IT!
THEN CAN WE STOP NOW?
DOING THIS WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING...
TMP
カッ…

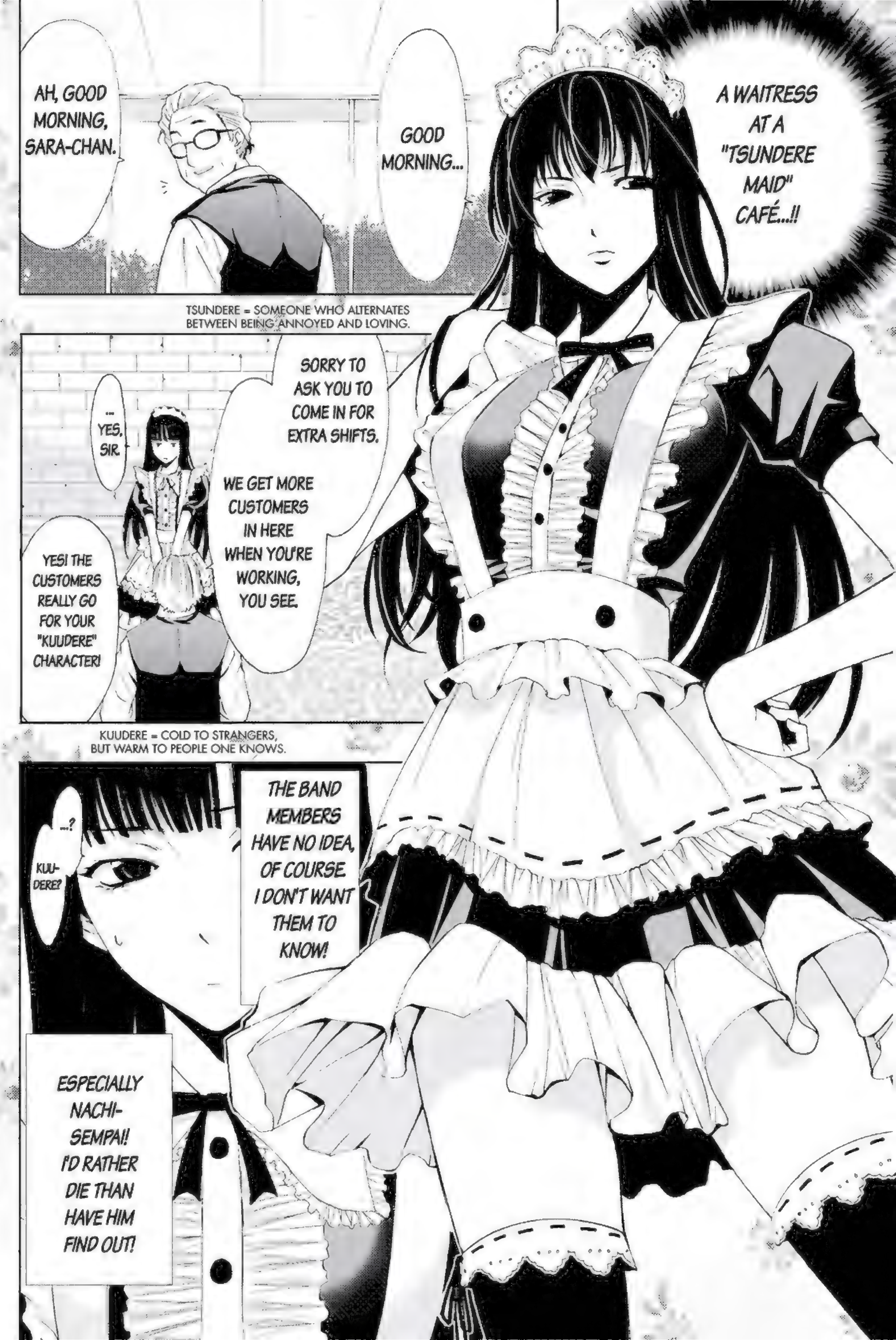

AH... UM...
YES?
THAT WAS... PRETTY GOOD.
IT WAS REALLY COOL... YOUR SINGING, I MEAN.
新
OH.
UH--
THANK YOU... VERY MUCH.
HEY, YOU'VE GOT A NICE VOICE, KID!
SING SOME MORE. I'LL LISTEN TO YA.
HUH?
S-SURE.
SEE?
THIS TIME, I'LL SING WITH YOU.
HEY! YOU CAN'T SING OUT HERE!


HUH?
YOU'RE THOSE KIDS FROM--
AH--!
OH, CRAP.
COME ON!!
WHOA!!
AH- HEY!!
I SWEAR, THINGS ALWAYS END UP THIS WAY WITH YOU!
BUT IT'S FUN, RIGHT?
SINGING SONGS YOU LIKE AND HAVING SOMEONE PRAISE YOU FOR IT!
WELL, YEAH.
OF COURSE, BUT--


AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. YOU DO HAVE THAT ATTRACTIVE QUALITY, YUU-KUN.
YOU LOOK KINDA COOL WHEN YOU'RE SINGING, YOU KNOW.
WHA…
REALLY?
ER--! ONLY WHEN YOU'RE SINGING, OKAY?!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO EMPHASIZE THAT PART.
BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHO WE ARE YET.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO SING WITH ALL WE'VE GOT, EVERY TIME…
…AND GET MORE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT US!

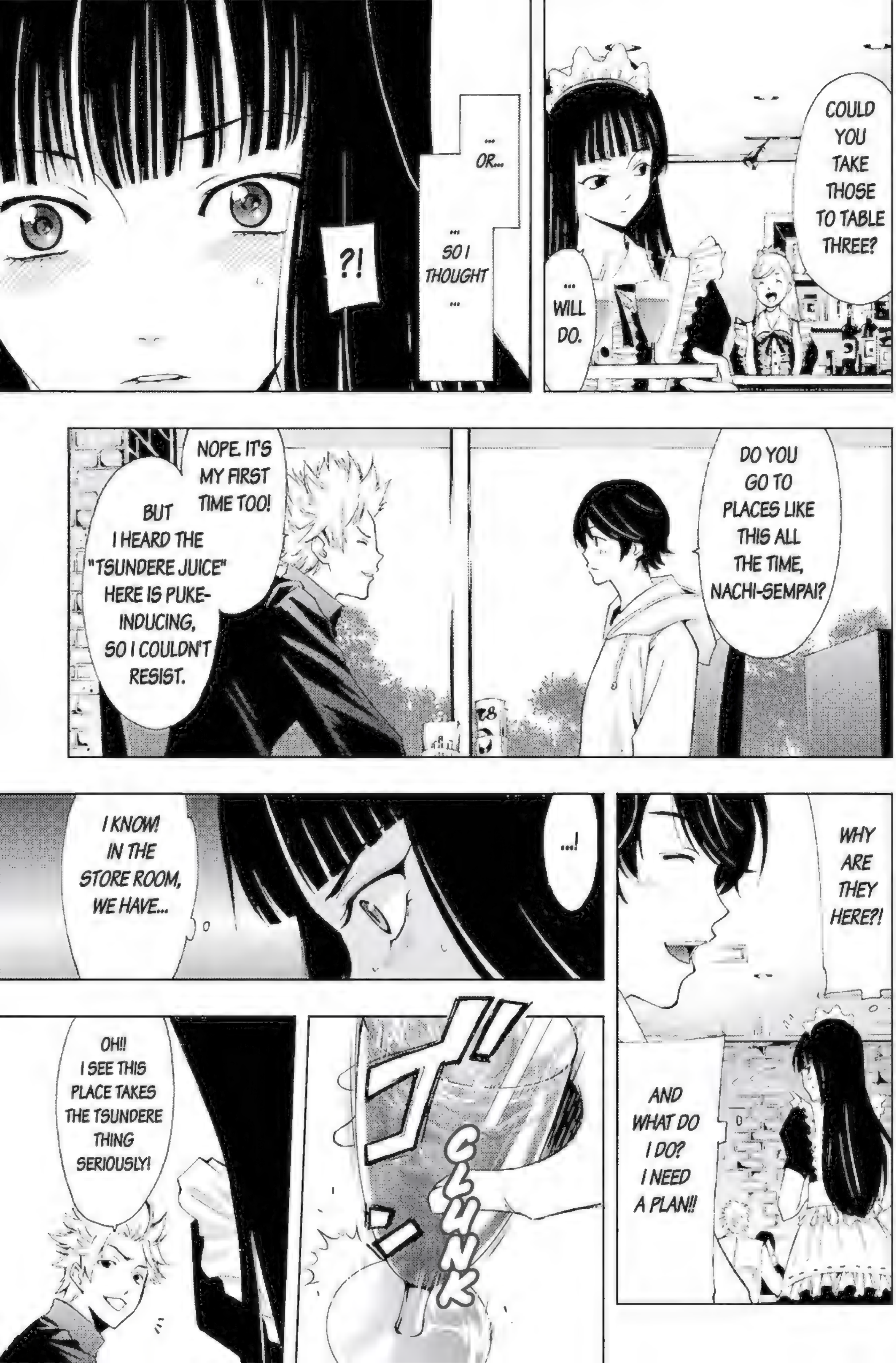

IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO WORRY ABOUT SILLY STUFF...
...THEN DEDICATE YOUR STRENGTH TO DOING WHAT'S FUN!!
I MAY BE...
Y-YEAH.
...A BIT OF A SIMPLE-MINDED PERSON.
BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME IF SHE COULD SEE ME NOW, SHE'D TELL ME THE SAME THING.
I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH!
YOU SEE?!
OKAY, WE'LL PLAY AT THE SOUTH EXIT NEXT TIME!!
NO! ENOUGH WITH PLAYING ON THE STREET!
AWW!!
SO...

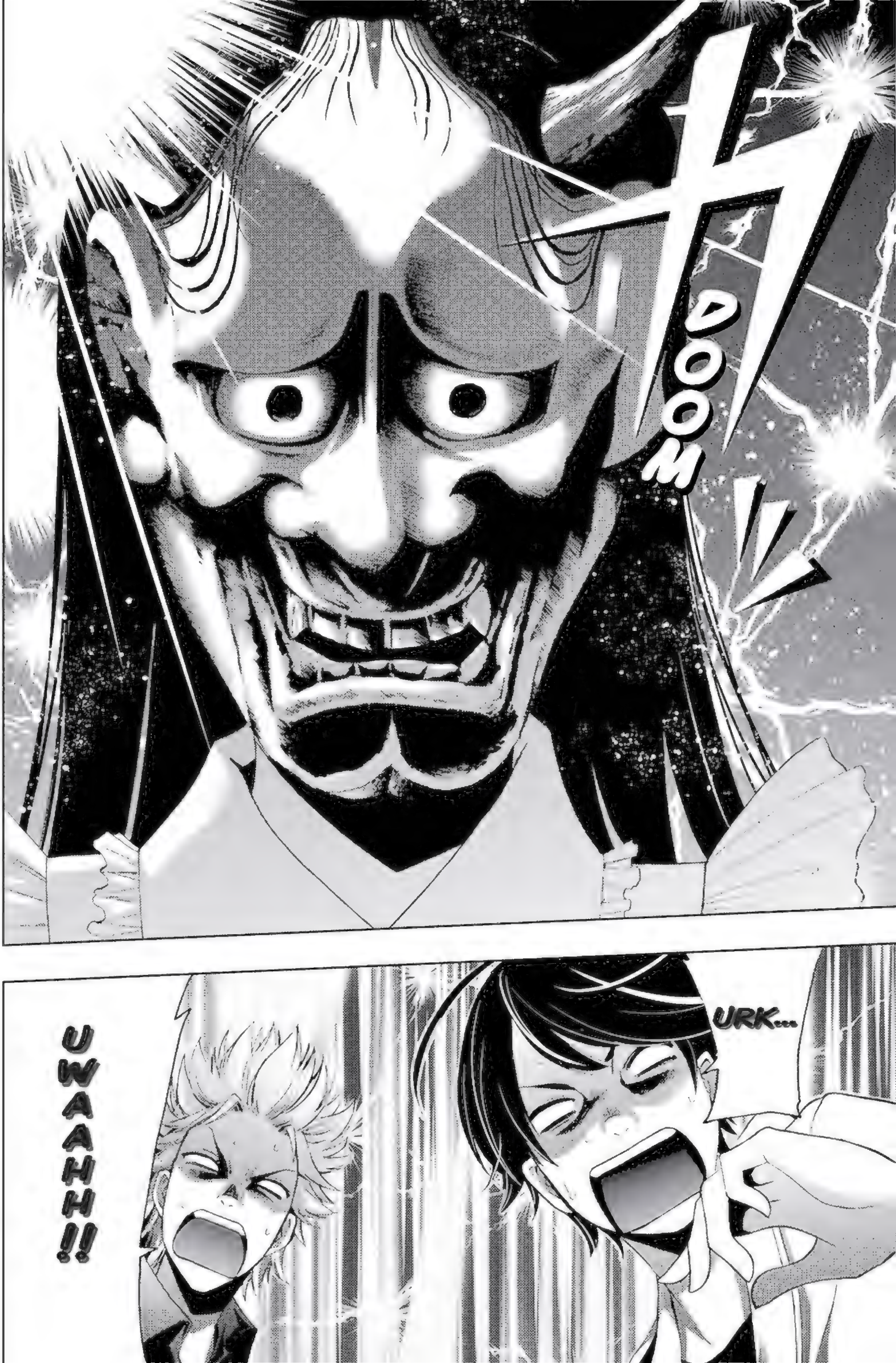

Fuuka
MY NAME IS SARA IWAMI.
TAK カッ
TAK カッ
I'M SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD. I MIGHT COME OFF AS A SLIGHTLY QUIET, EXTREMELY UNSOCIABLE GIRL.
WOW!
COOL!
SIDE STORY SARA IWAMI
MY HOBBY IS PLAYING GUITAR.
I DO A LOT OF PART-TIME JOBS TO PAY FOR IT.
DO YOU ALWAYS APOLOGIZE WITH THAT ATTITUDE?!
YOU'RE FIRED!!
FINE.
BECAUSE OF THAT "UNSOCIABLE" THING I MENTIONED, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO HOLD DOWN ANY OF THEM FOR LONG.
AND YES, IT DOES COST A TON OF MONEY...
BUT JUST RECENTLY, I THINK I'VE FOUND A JOB THAT SUITS MY PERSONALITY PERFECTLY.
ガチャ KACHIK
I'M NOW...

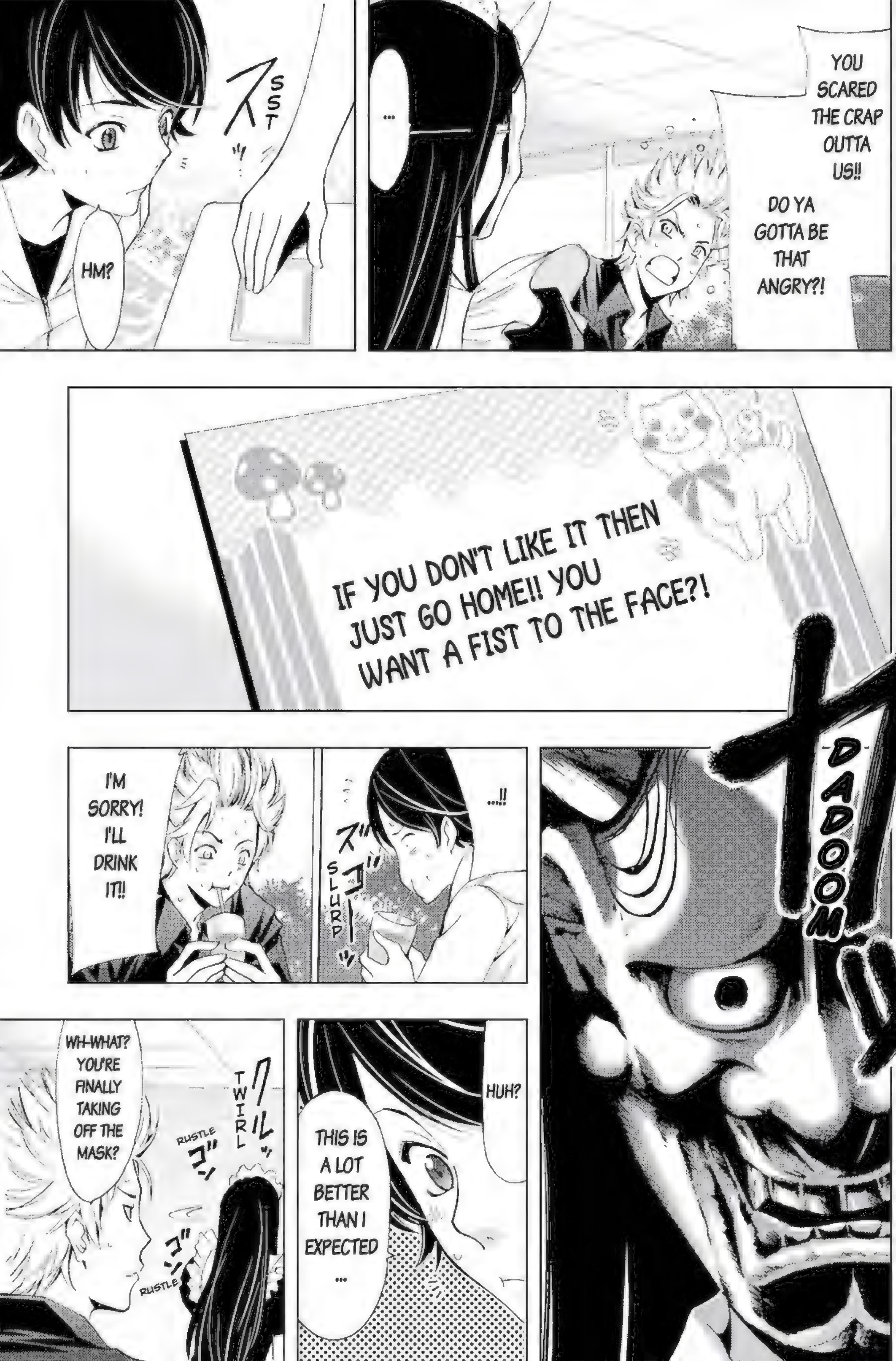

GOOD MORNING...
AH, GOOD MORNING, SARA-CHAN.
A WAITRESS AT A "TSUNDERE MAID" CAFÉ...!!
SORRY TO ASK YOU TO COME IN FOR EXTRA SHIFTS.
WE GET MORE CUSTOMERS IN HERE WHEN YOU'RE WORKING, YOU SEE.
... YES, SIR.
YES! THE CUSTOMERS REALLY GO FOR YOUR "KUUDERE" CHARACTER!
THE BAND MEMBERS HAVE NO IDEA, OF COURSE. I DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW!
...?
KUU-DERE?
ESPECIALLY NACHI-SEMPAI! I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAVE HIM FIND OUT!

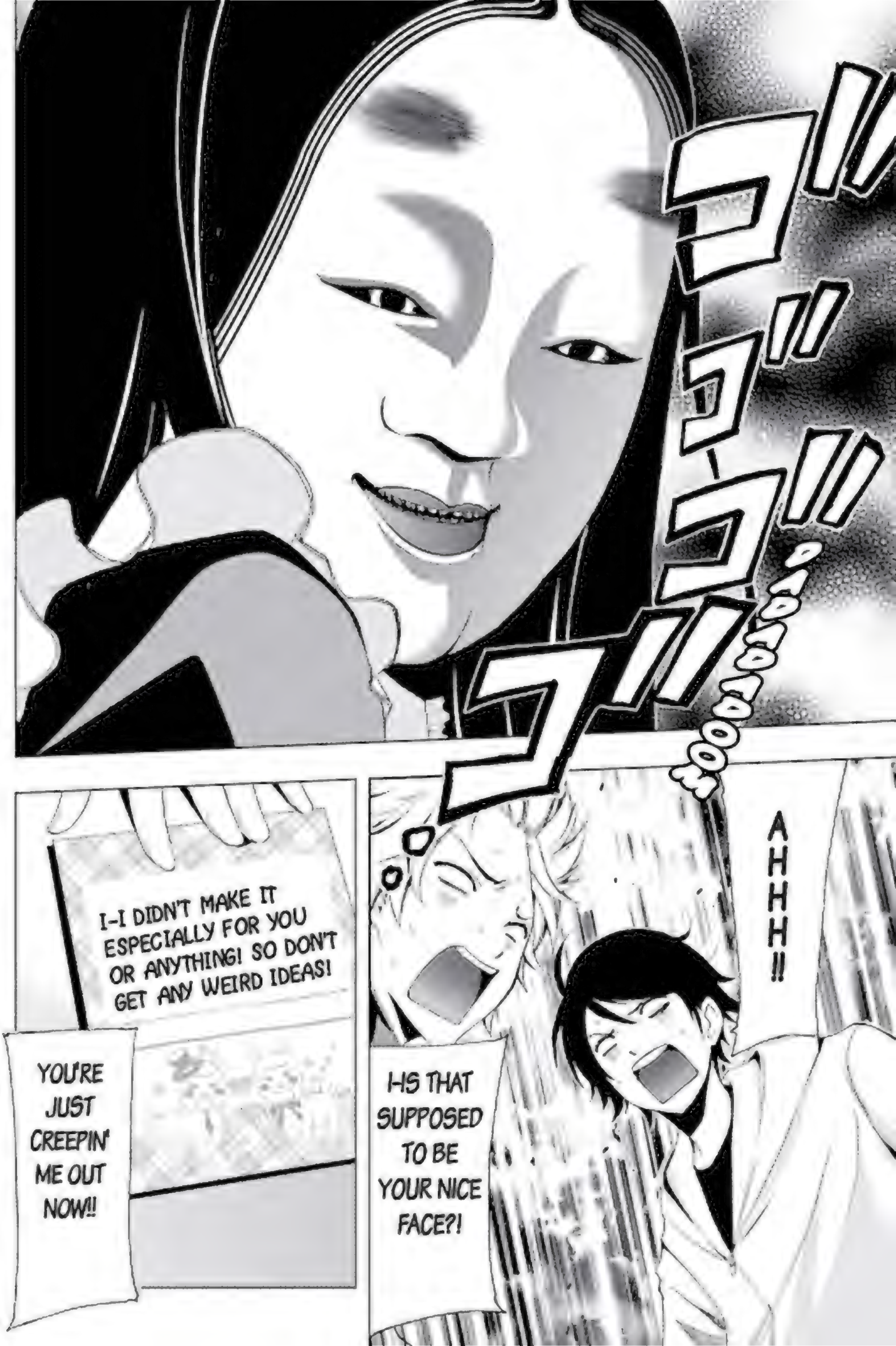
TSUNDERE = SOMEONE WHO ALTERNATES BETWEEN BEING ANNOYED AND LOVING.

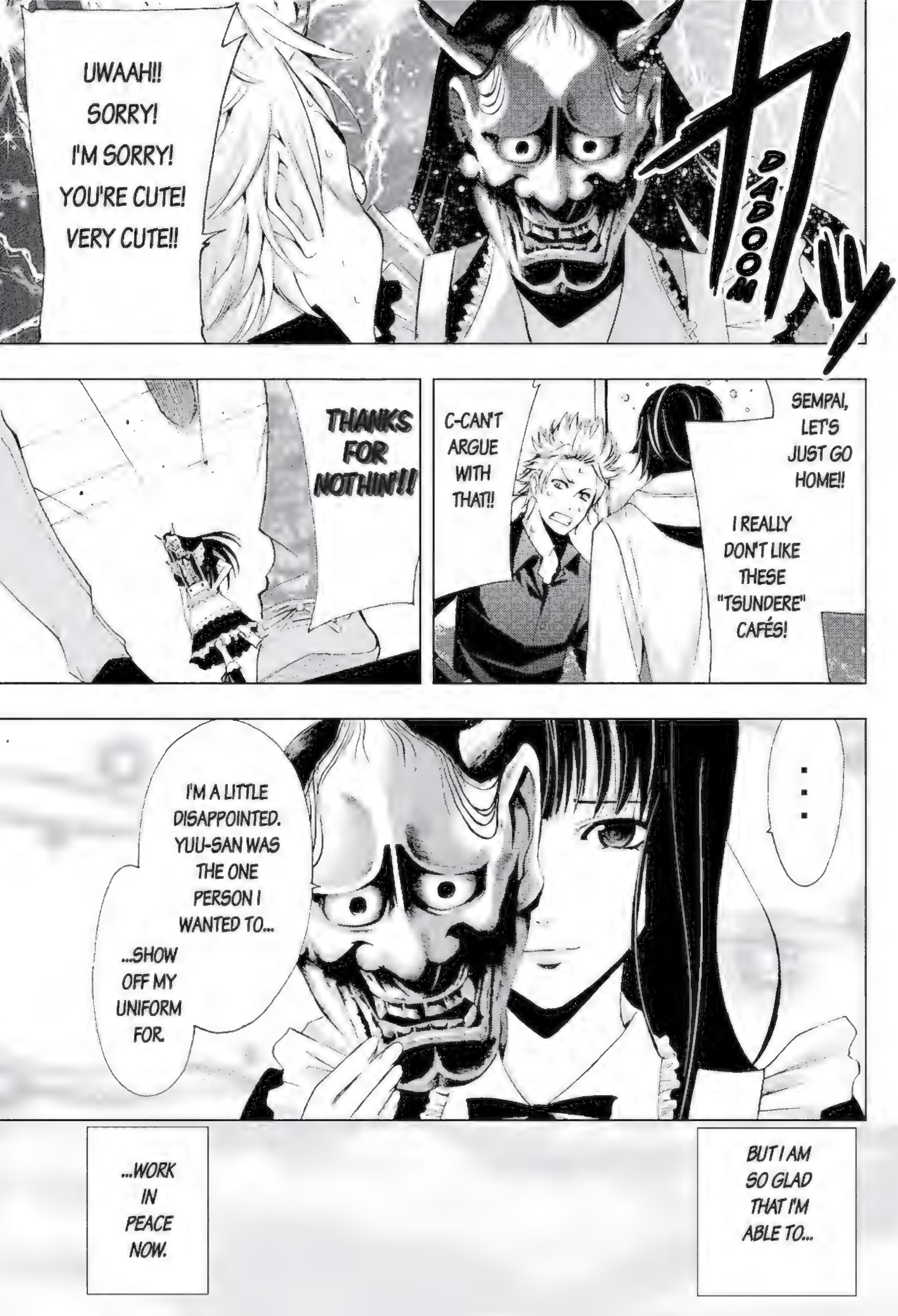
KUUDERE = COLD TO STRANGERS, BUT WARM TO PEOPLE ONE KNOWS.

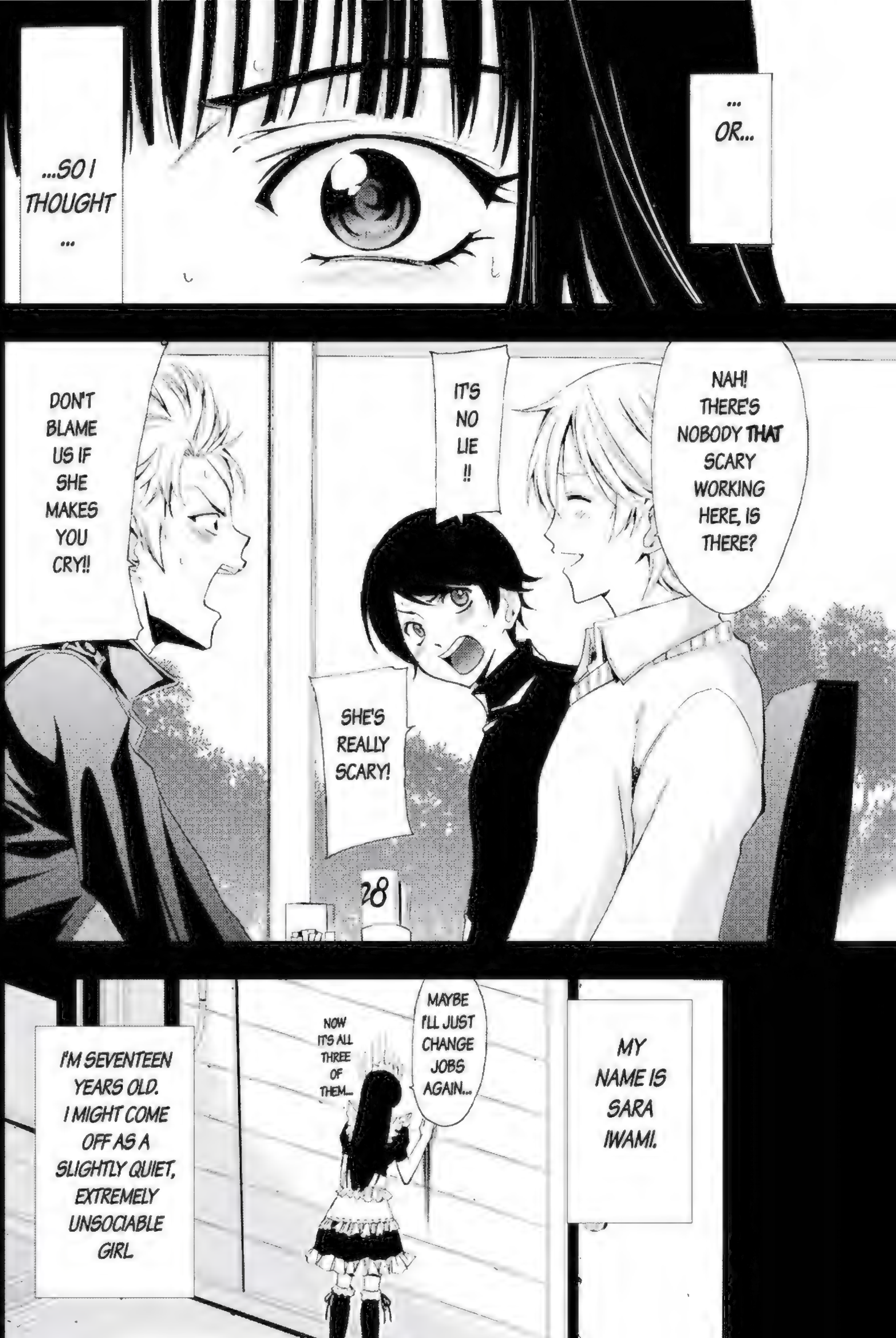

COULD YOU TAKE THOSE TO TABLE THREE?
... WILL DO.
... OR...
... SO I THOUGHT ...
?!
DO YOU GO TO PLACES LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME, NACHI-SEMPAI?
NOPE. IT'S MY FIRST TIME TOO!
BUT I HEARD THE "TSUNDERE JUICE" HERE IS PUKE-INDUCING, SO I COULDN'T RESIST.
WHY ARE THEY HERE?!
AND WHAT DO I DO? I NEED A PLAN!!
...!
I KNOW! IN THE STORE ROOM, WE HAVE...
CLUNK
OH!! I SEE THIS PLACE TAKES THE TSUNDERE THING SERIOUSLY!


DOOM
URK...
UWAAHH!!


YOU SCARED THE CRAP OUTTA US!!
DO YA GOTTA BE THAT ANGRY?!
...
SST
HM?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT THEN JUST GO HOME!! YOU WANT A FIST TO THE FACE?!
DADOOM
...!!
SLURP
I'M SORRY! I'LL DRINK IT!!
HUH?
THIS IS A LOT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED ...
TWIRL
RUSTLE
WH-WHAT? YOU'RE FINALLY TAKING OFF THE MASK?
RUSTLE


ゴゴゴゴゴ
DODODODOOM
AHHH!!
I-IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR NICE FACE?!
I-I DIDN'T MAKE IT ESPECIALLY FOR YOU OR ANYTHING! SO DON'T GET ANY WEIRD IDEAS!
YOU'RE JUST CREEPIN' ME OUT NOW!!


DADOOM
UWAAH!! SORRY! I'M SORRY! YOU'RE CUTE! VERY CUTE!!
SEMPAI, LET'S JUST GO HOME!!
I REALLY DON'T LIKE THESE "TSUNDERE" CAFÉS!
C-CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT!!
THANKS FOR NOTHIN'!!
...
I'M A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED. YUU-SAN WAS THE ONE PERSON I WANTED TO...
...SHOW OFF MY UNIFORM FOR.
BUT I AM SO GLAD THAT I'M ABLE TO...
...WORK IN PEACE NOW.


... OR...
...SO I THOUGHT ...
NAH! THERE'S NOBODY THAT SCARY WORKING HERE, IS THERE?
IT'S NO LIE !!
SHE'S REALLY SCARY!
DON'T BLAME US IF SHE MAKES YOU CRY!!
28
MY NAME IS SARA IWAMI.
MAYBE I'LL JUST CHANGE JOBS AGAIN...
NOW IT'S ALL THREE OF THEM...
I'M SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD. I MIGHT COME OFF AS A SLIGHTLY QUIET, EXTREMELY UNSOCIABLE GIRL

Fuuka volume 7
KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

STORY AND ART BY KOUJI SEO

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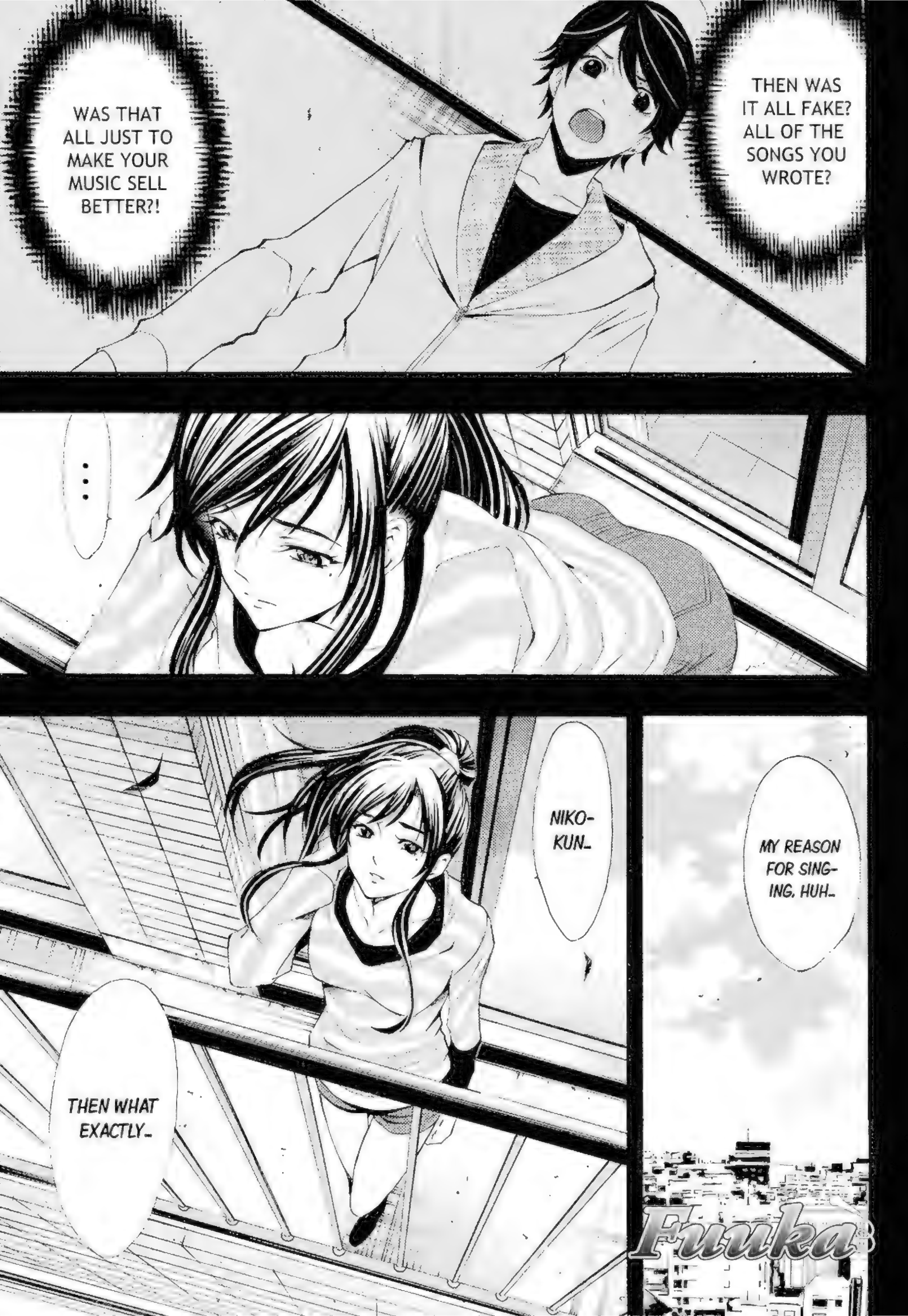
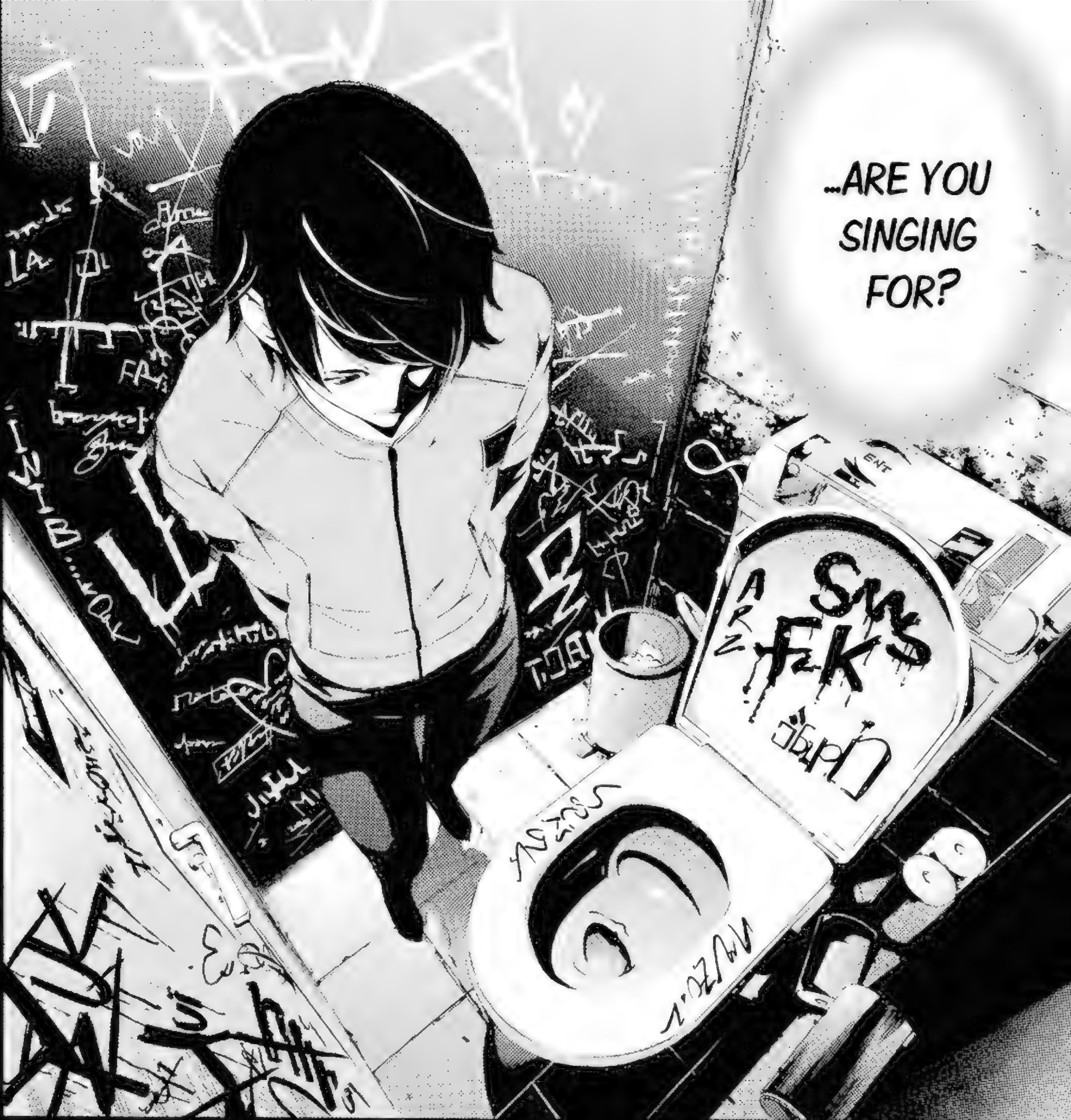
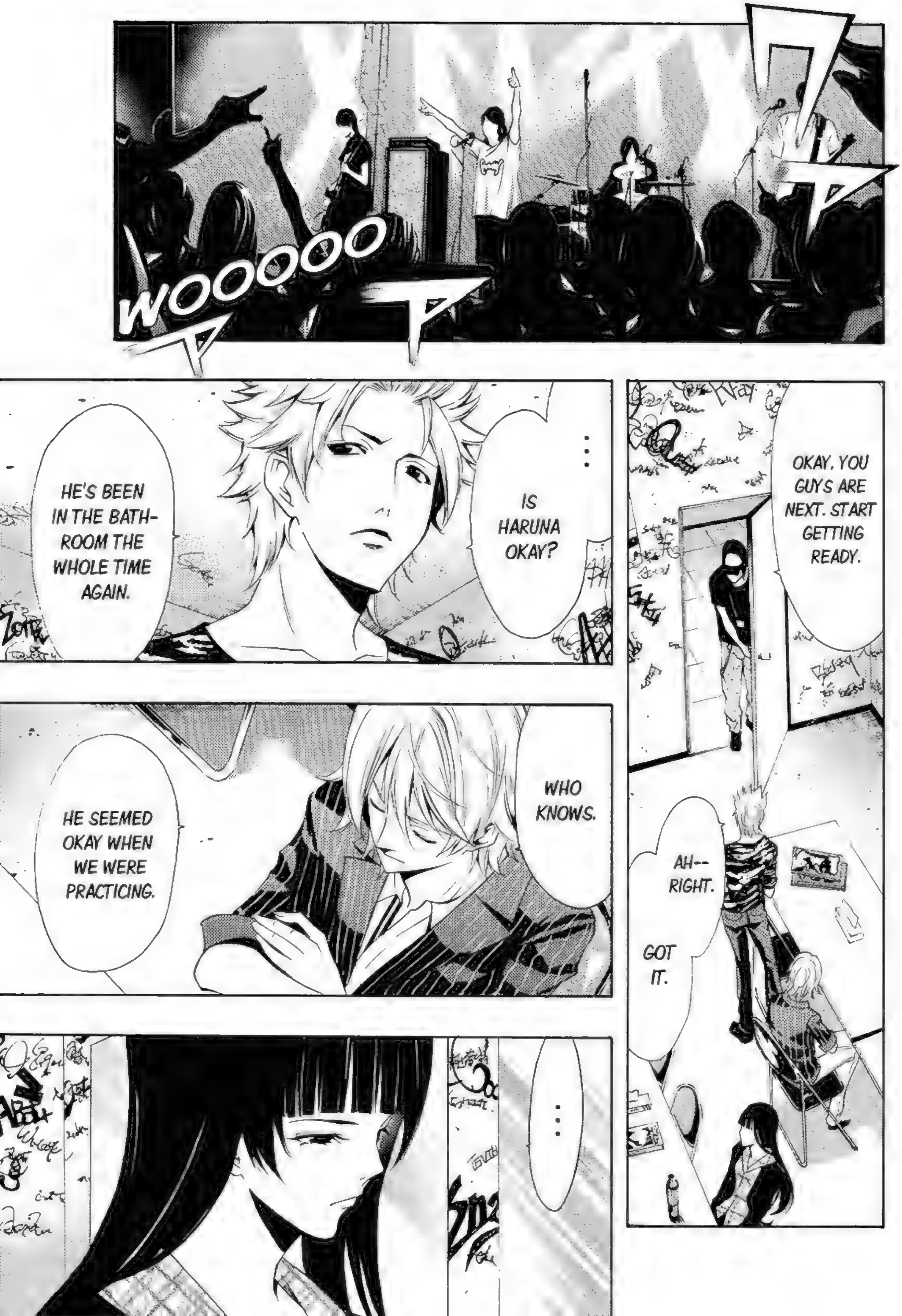
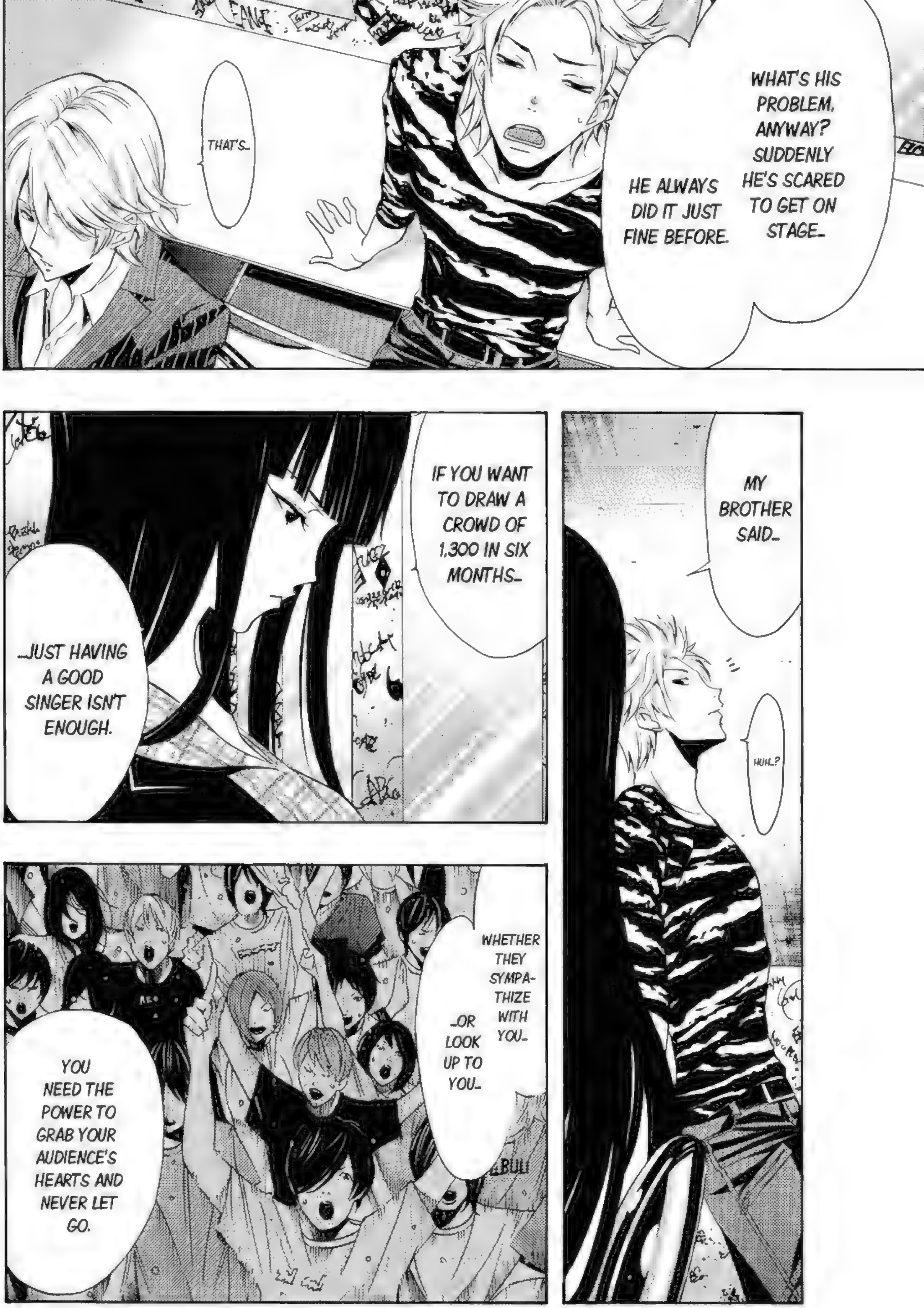

THEN WAS IT ALL FAKE? ALL OF THE SONGS YOU WROTE?
WAS THAT ALL JUST TO MAKE YOUR MUSIC SELL BETTER?!
…
MY REASON FOR SINGING, HUH…
NIKO-KUN…
THEN WHAT EXACTLY…
Fuuka

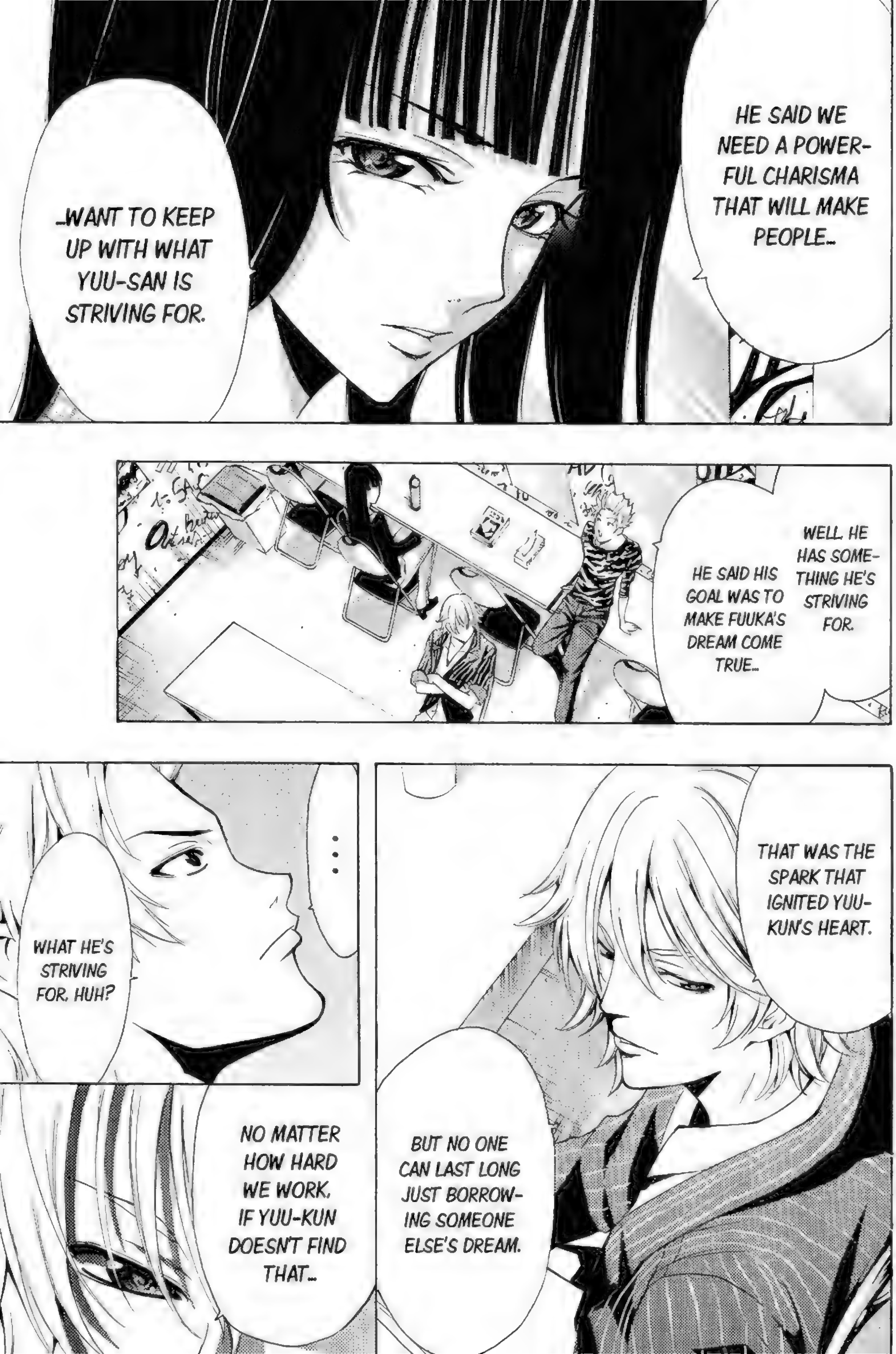

...ARE YOU SINGING FOR?

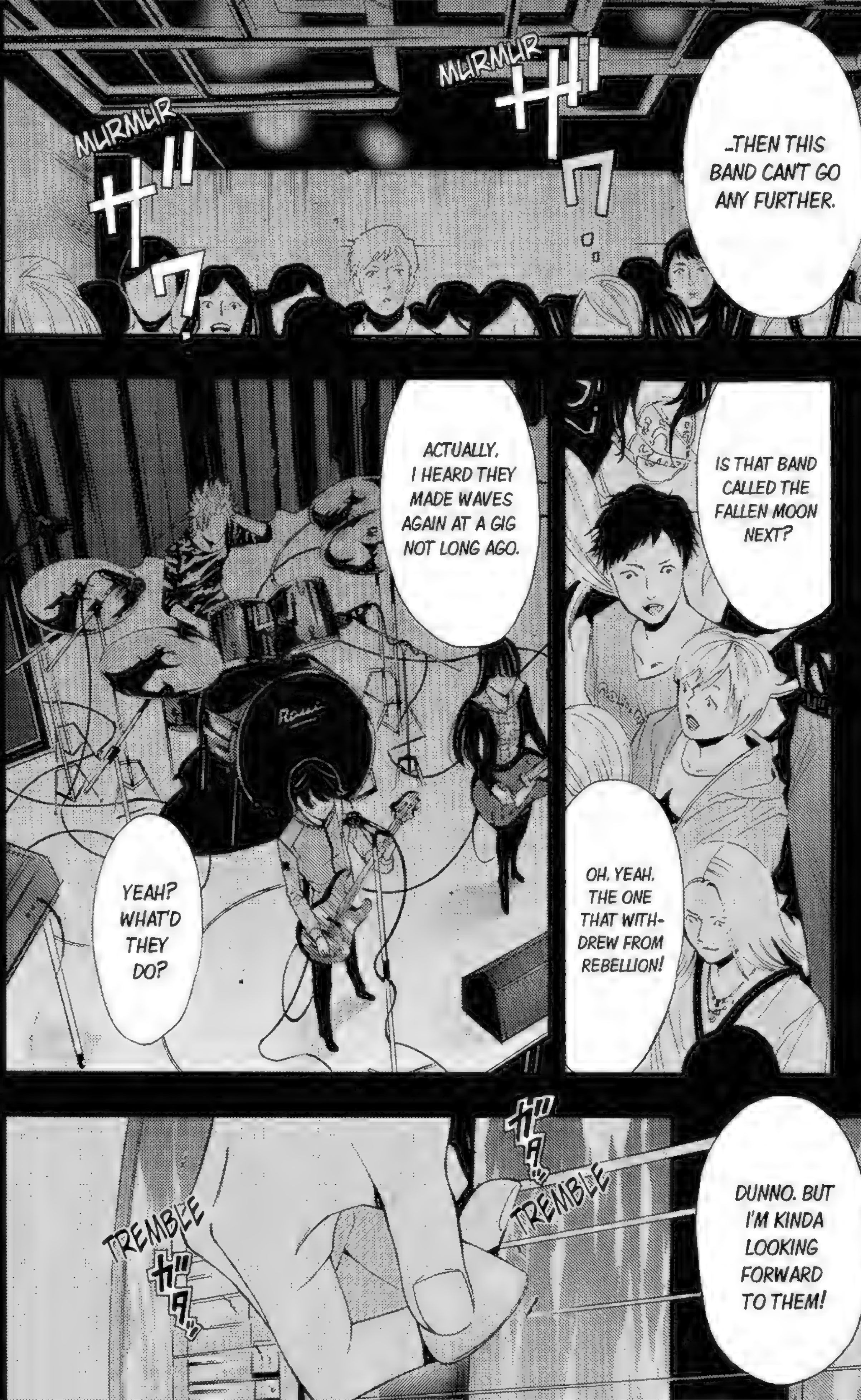
Fuuka

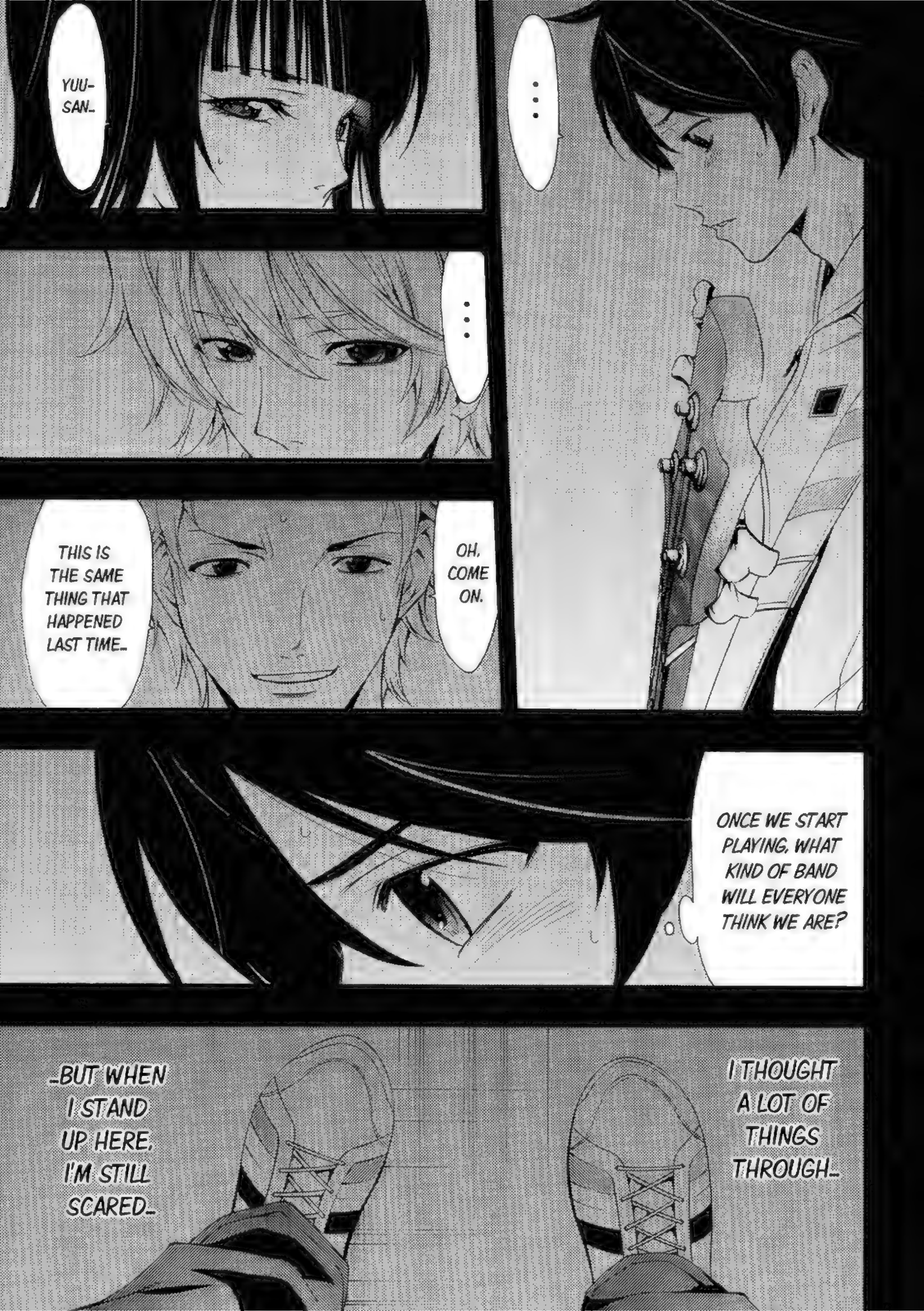
# 65 WE CAN'T.

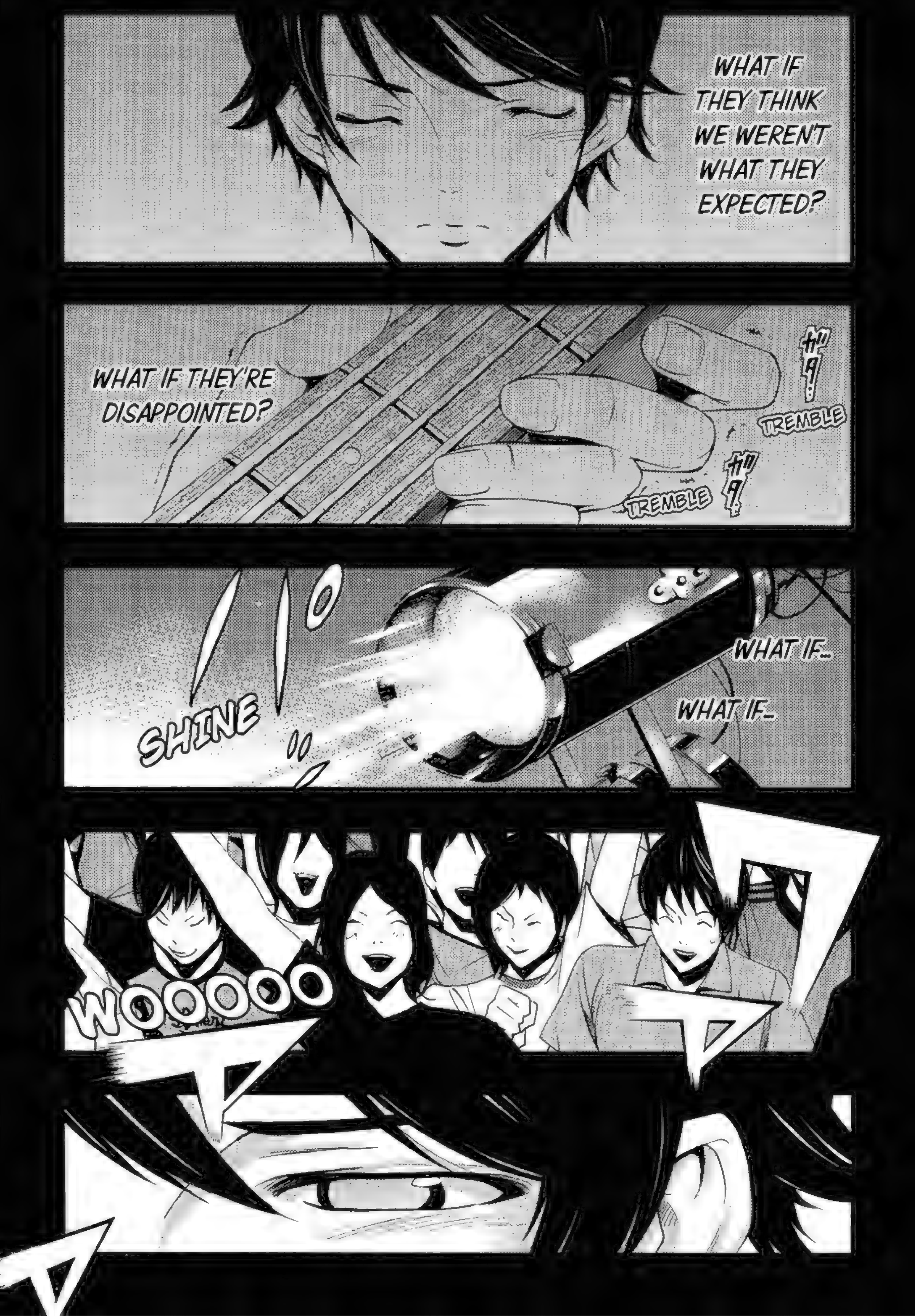

WOOOOO
OKAY, YOU GUYS ARE NEXT. START GETTING READY.
AH-- RIGHT.
GOT IT.
...
IS HARUNA OKAY?
HE'S BEEN IN THE BATHROOM THE WHOLE TIME AGAIN.
WHO KNOWS.
HE SEEMED OKAY WHEN WE WERE PRACTICING.
...

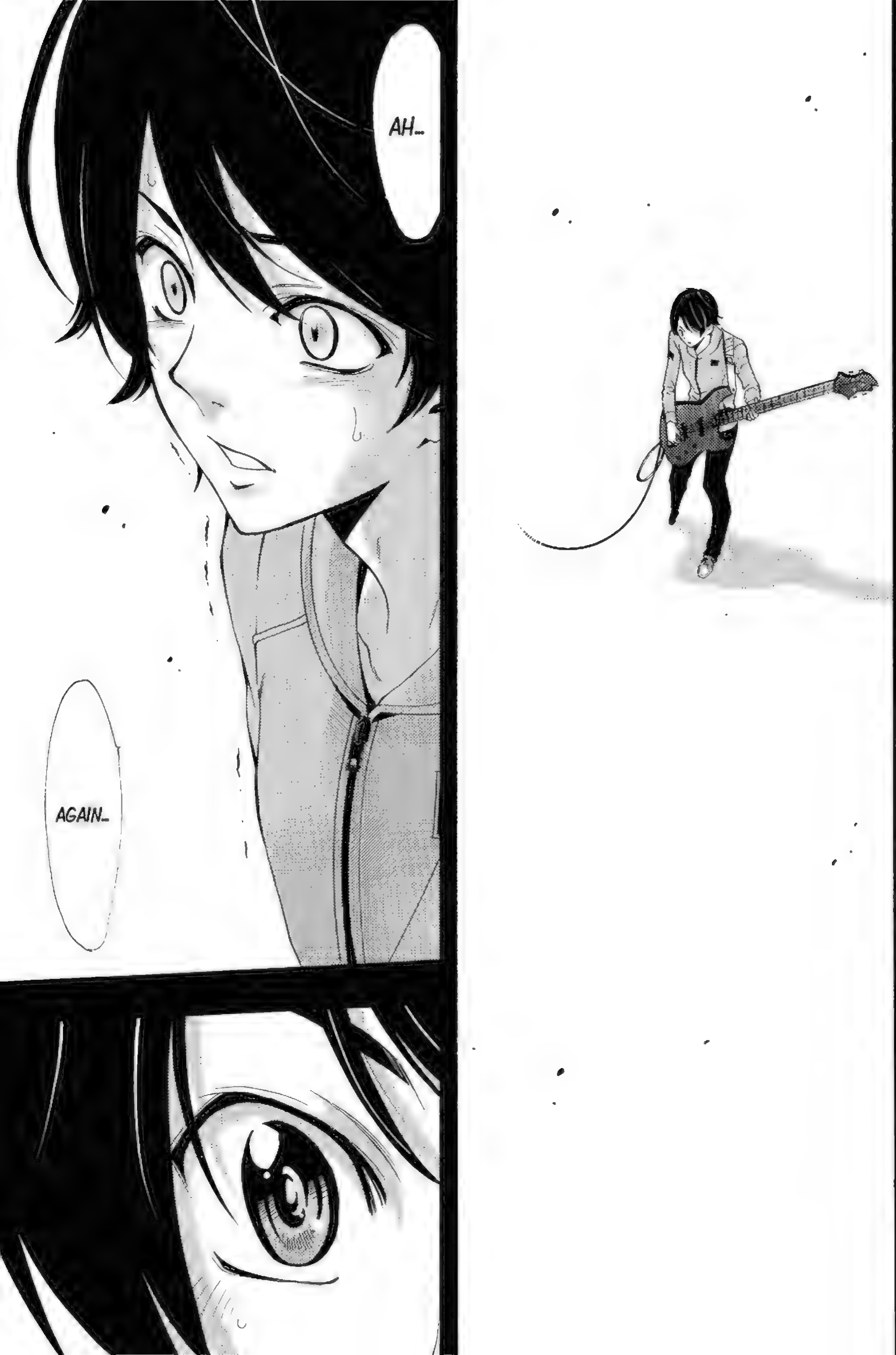

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM, ANYWAY? SUDDENLY HE'S SCARED TO GET ON STAGE...
HE ALWAYS DID IT JUST FINE BEFORE.
THAT'S...
MY BROTHER SAID...
HUH...?
IF YOU WANT TO DRAW A CROWD OF 1,300 IN SIX MONTHS...
...JUST HAVING A GOOD SINGER ISN'T ENOUGH.
WHETHER THEY SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU...
...OR LOOK UP TO YOU...
YOU NEED THE POWER TO GRAB YOUR AUDIENCE'S HEARTS AND NEVER LET GO.

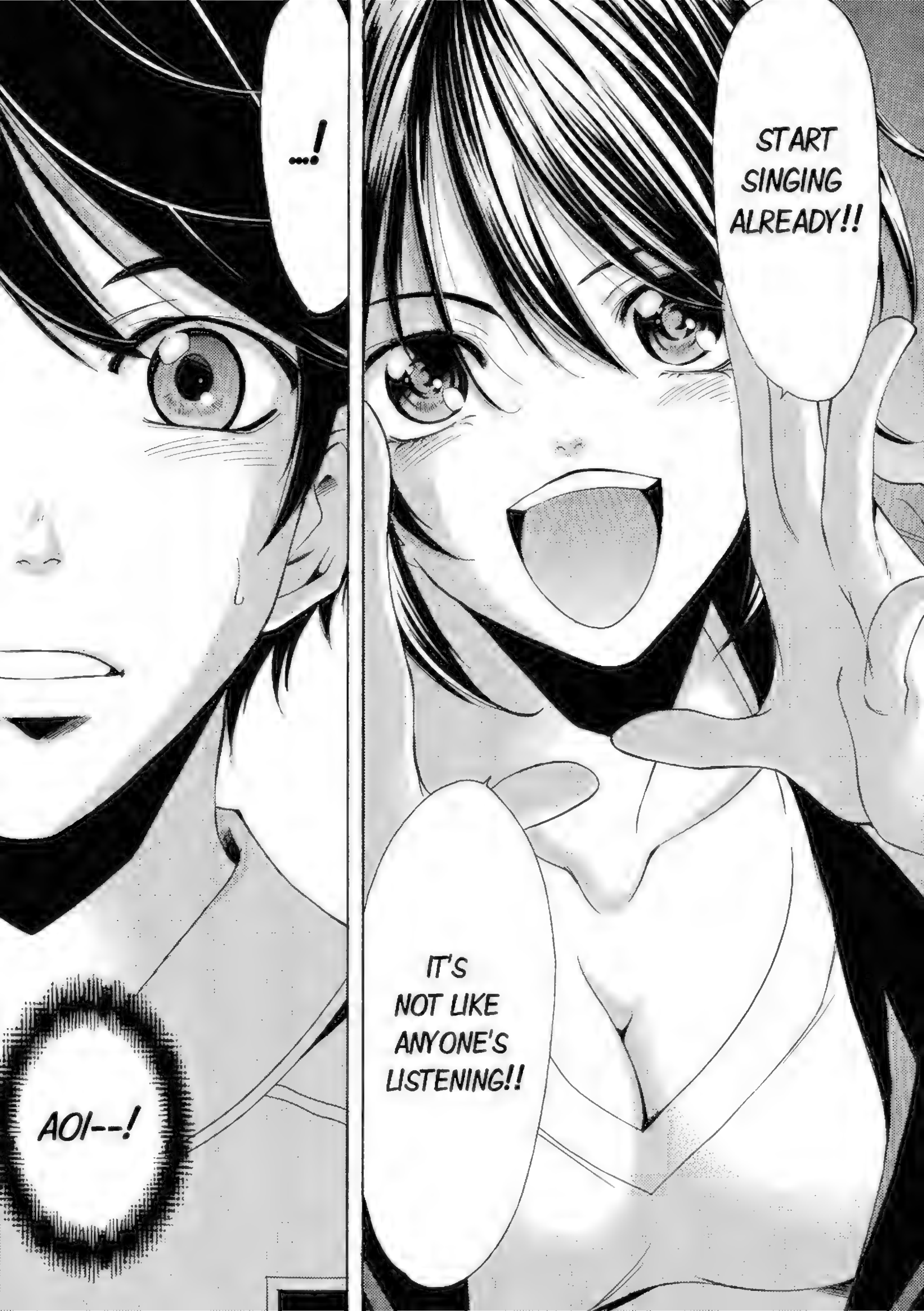

HE SAID WE NEED A POWERFUL CHARISMA THAT WILL MAKE PEOPLE...
...WANT TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT YUU-SAN IS STRIVING FOR.
WELL, HE HAS SOMETHING HE'S STRIVING FOR.
HE SAID HIS GOAL WAS TO MAKE FUUKA'S DREAM COME TRUE...
THAT WAS THE SPARK THAT IGNITED YUU-KUN'S HEART.
...
WHAT HE'S STRIVING FOR, HUH?
BUT NO ONE CAN LAST LONG JUST BORROWING SOMEONE ELSE'S DREAM.
NO MATTER HOW HARD WE WORK, IF YUU-KUN DOESN'T FIND THAT...

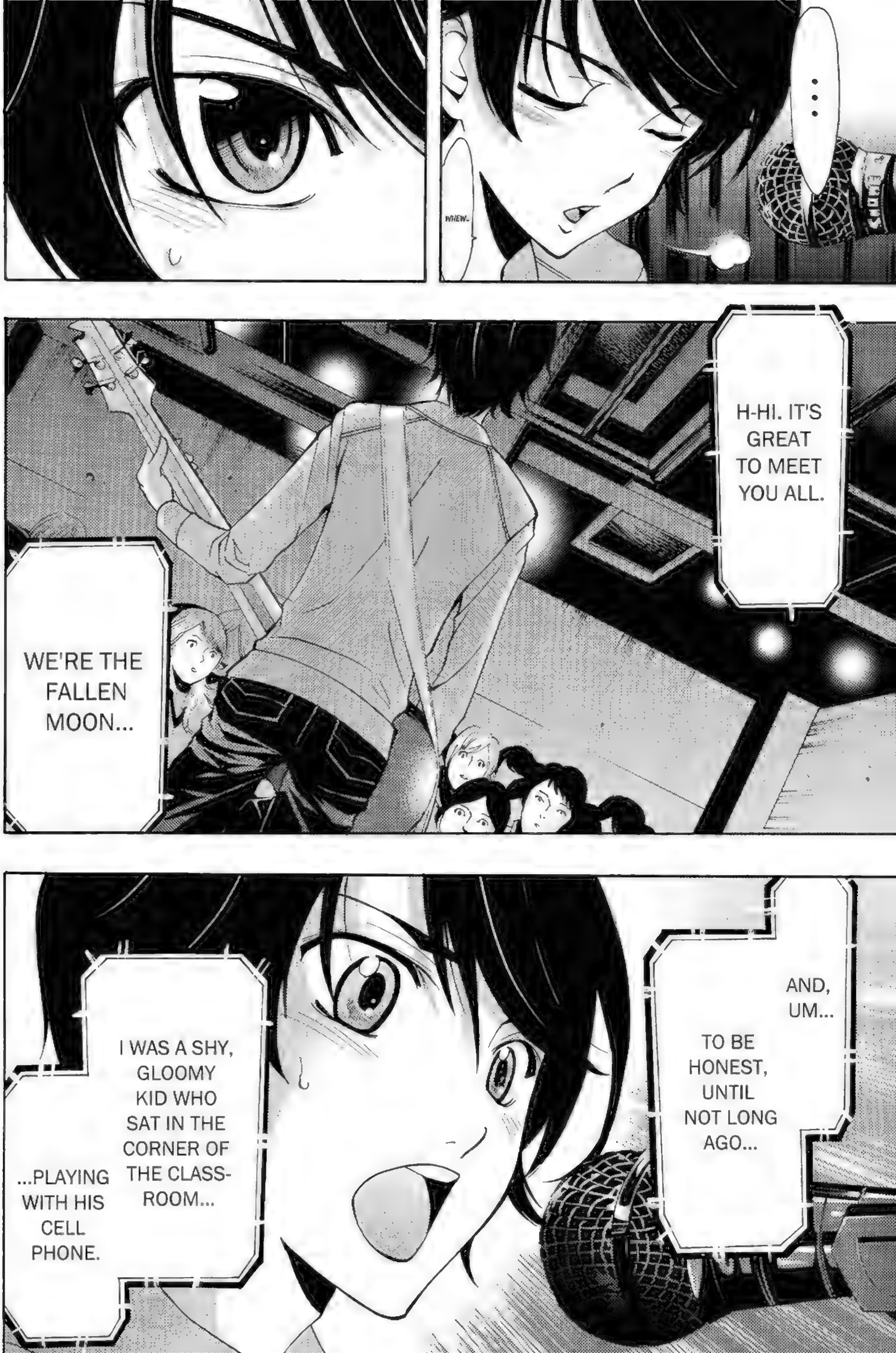

..THEN THIS BAND CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER.
MURMUR
ザワ
MURMUR
ザワ
IS THAT BAND CALLED THE FALLEN MOON NEXT?
OH, YEAH, THE ONE THAT WITHDREW FROM REBELLION!
ACTUALLY, I HEARD THEY MADE WAVES AGAIN AT A GIG NOT LONG AGO.
YEAH? WHAT'D THEY DO?
DUNNO. BUT I'M KINDA LOOKING FORWARD TO THEM!
ガタ…
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
ガタッ

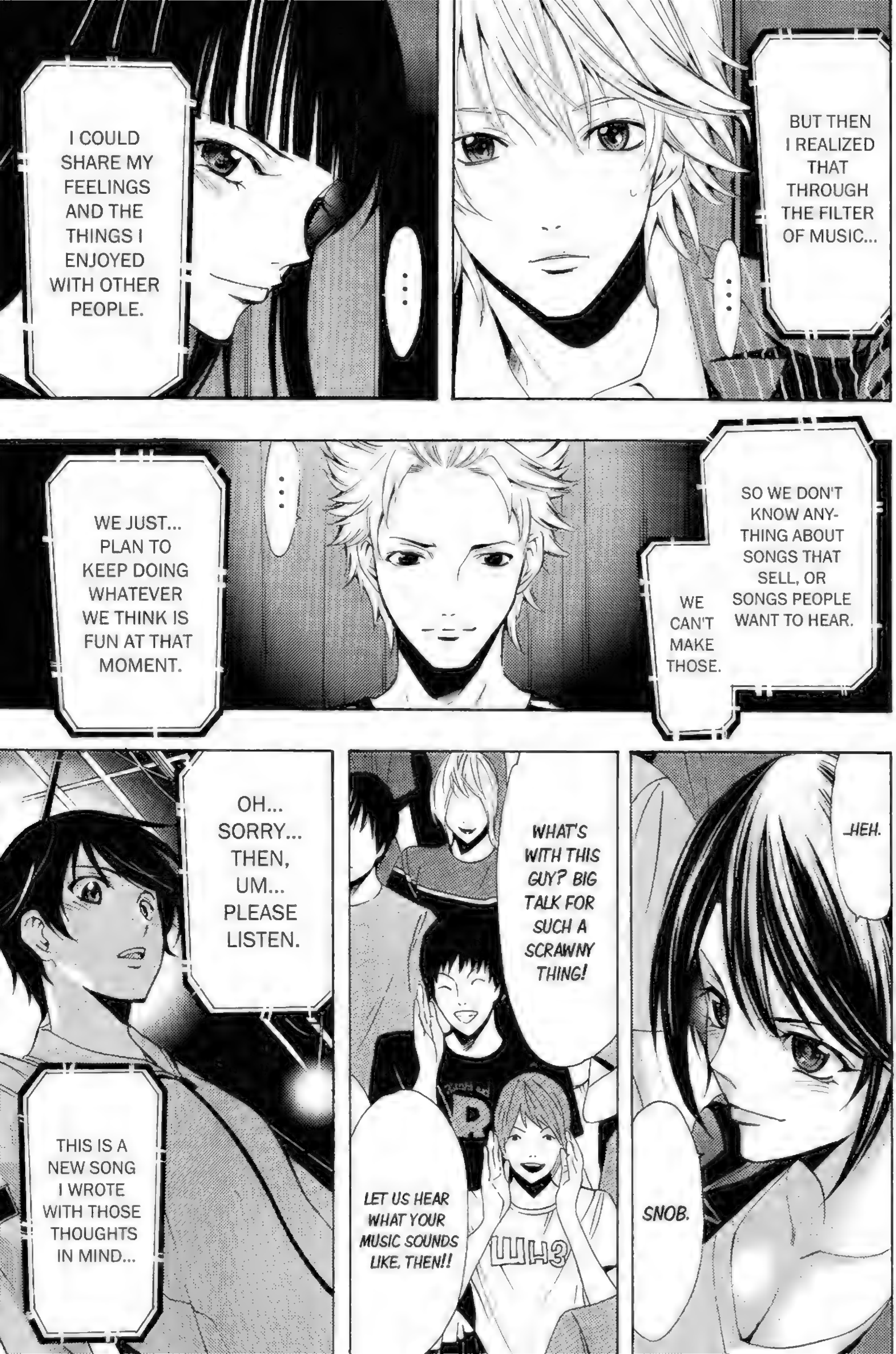

...
YUU-SAN..
...
OH, COME ON.
THIS IS THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED LAST TIME..
ONCE WE START PLAYING, WHAT KIND OF BAND WILL EVERYONE THINK WE ARE?
I THOUGHT A LOT OF THINGS THROUGH..
..BUT WHEN I STAND UP HERE, I'M STILL SCARED..

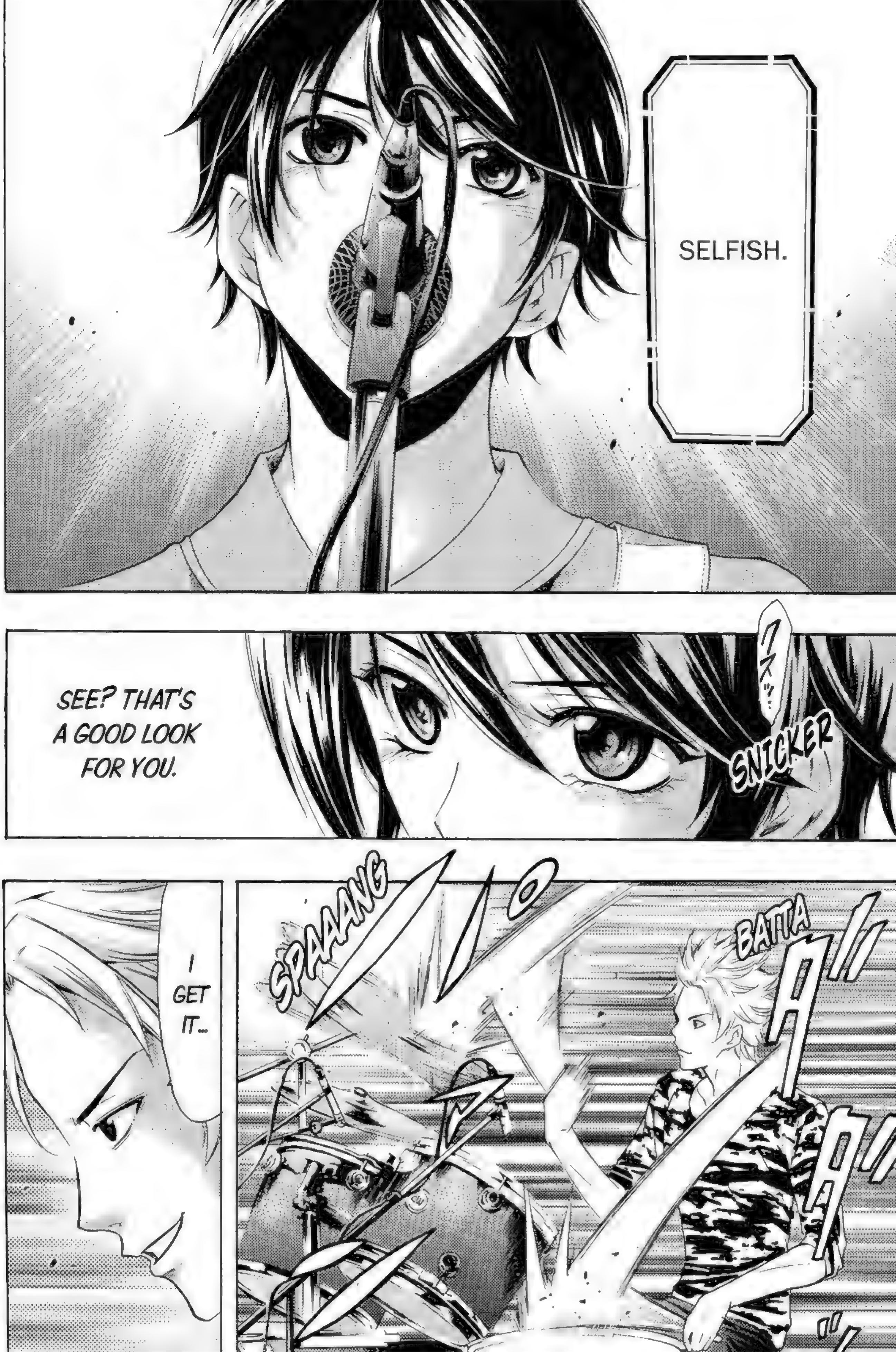

WHAT IF THEY THINK WE WEREN'T WHAT THEY EXPECTED?
WHAT IF THEY'RE DISAPPOINTED?
ガタ
TREMBLE
ガタ
TREMBLE
WHAT IF...
WHAT IF...
SHINE
WOOOOO

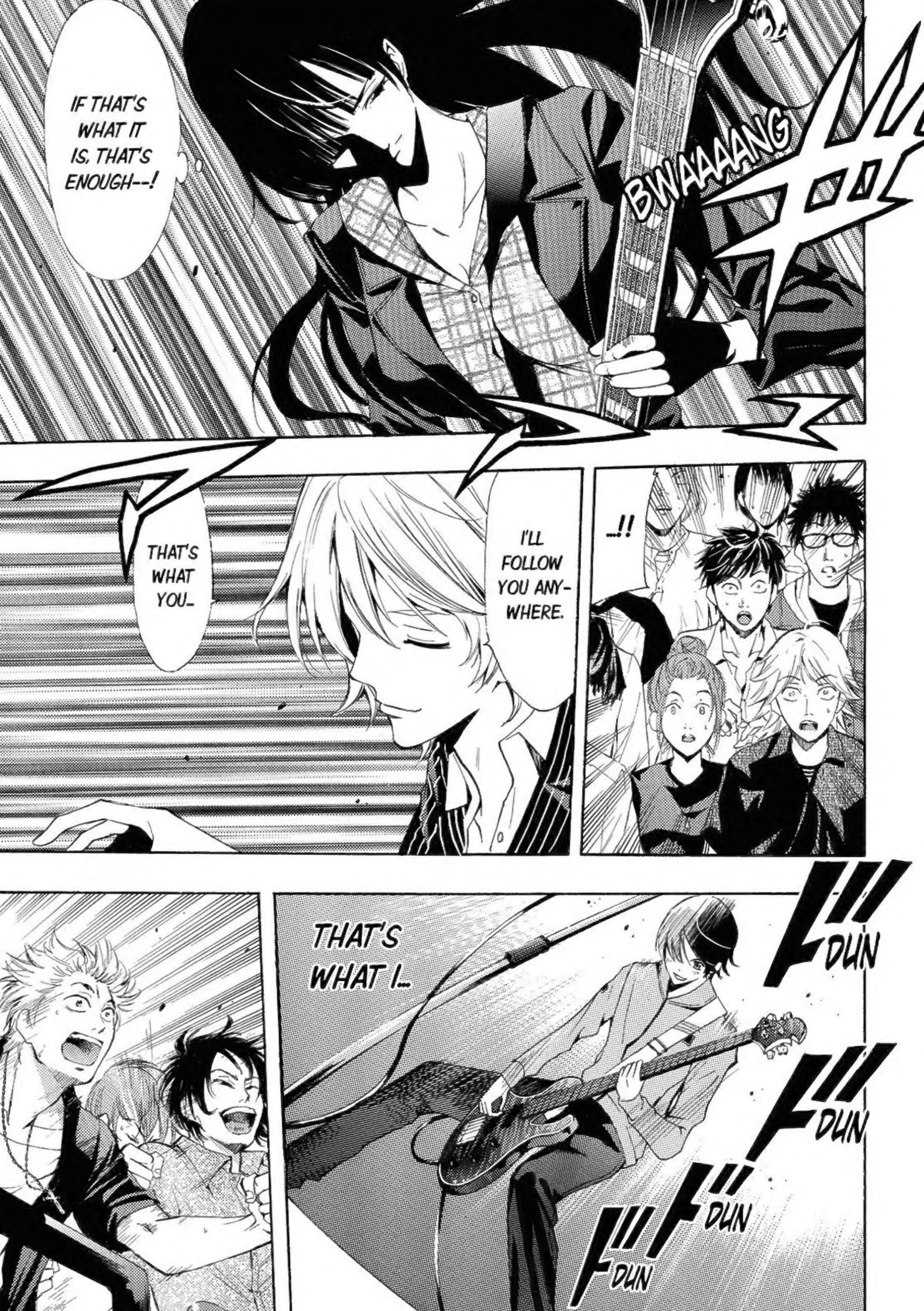

AH...
AGAIN...

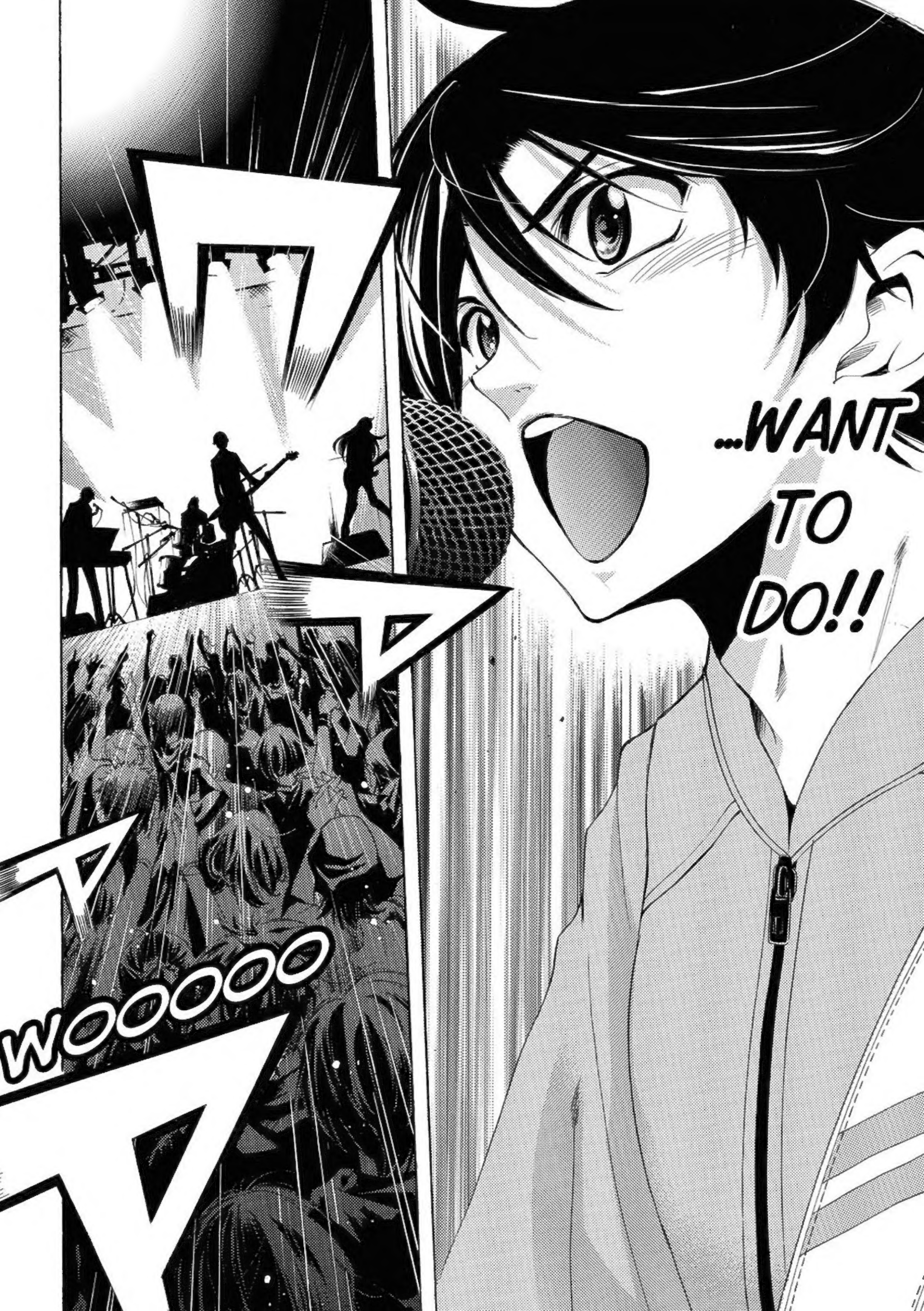

START SINGING ALREADY!!
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE'S LISTENING!!
...!
AOI--!

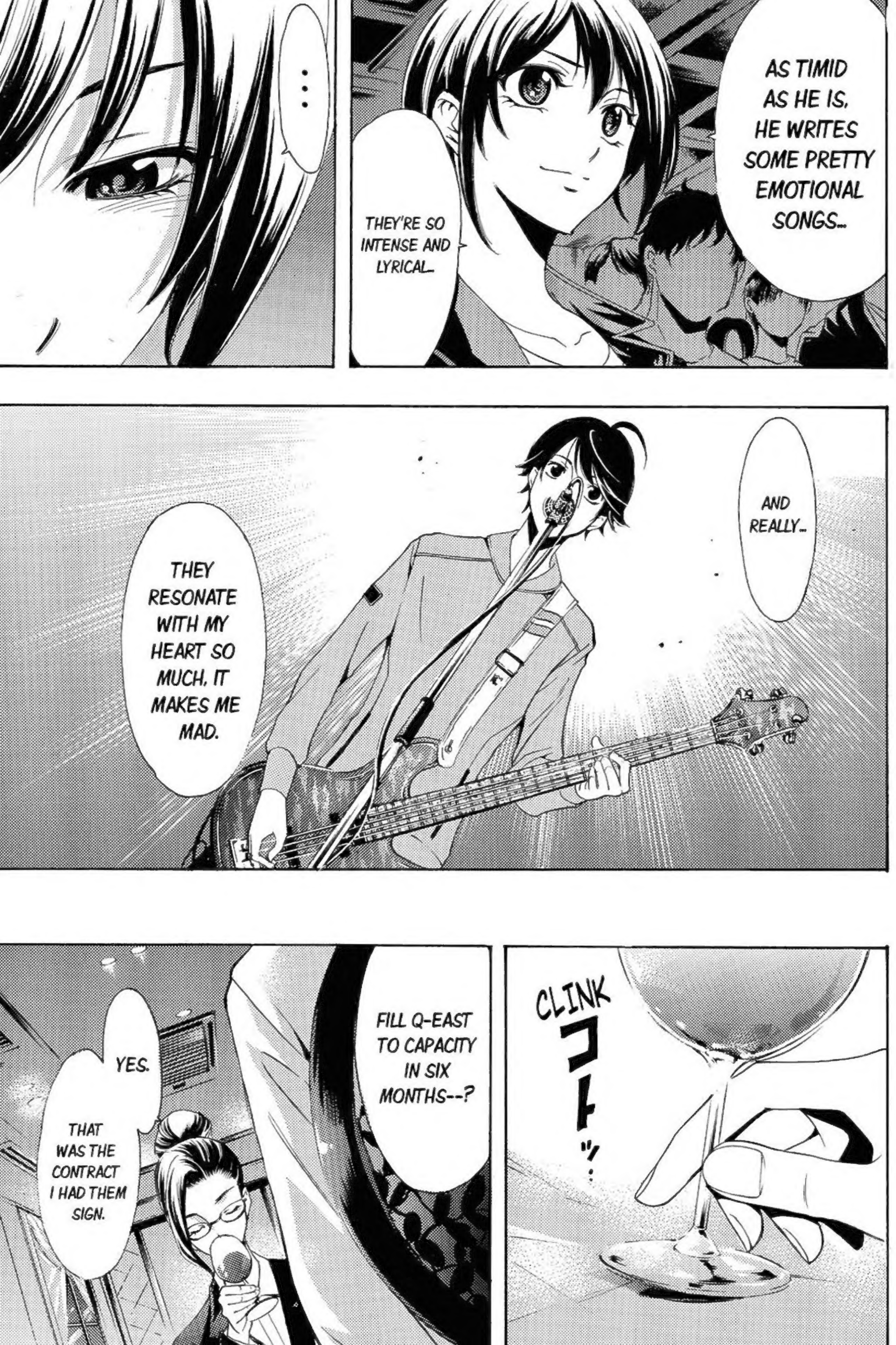

...
WHEW.
H-HI. IT'S GREAT TO MEET YOU ALL.
WE'RE THE FALLEN MOON...
AND, UM...
TO BE HONEST, UNTIL NOT LONG AGO...
I WAS A SHY, GLOOMY KID WHO SAT IN THE CORNER OF THE CLASSROOM...
...PLAYING WITH HIS CELL PHONE.

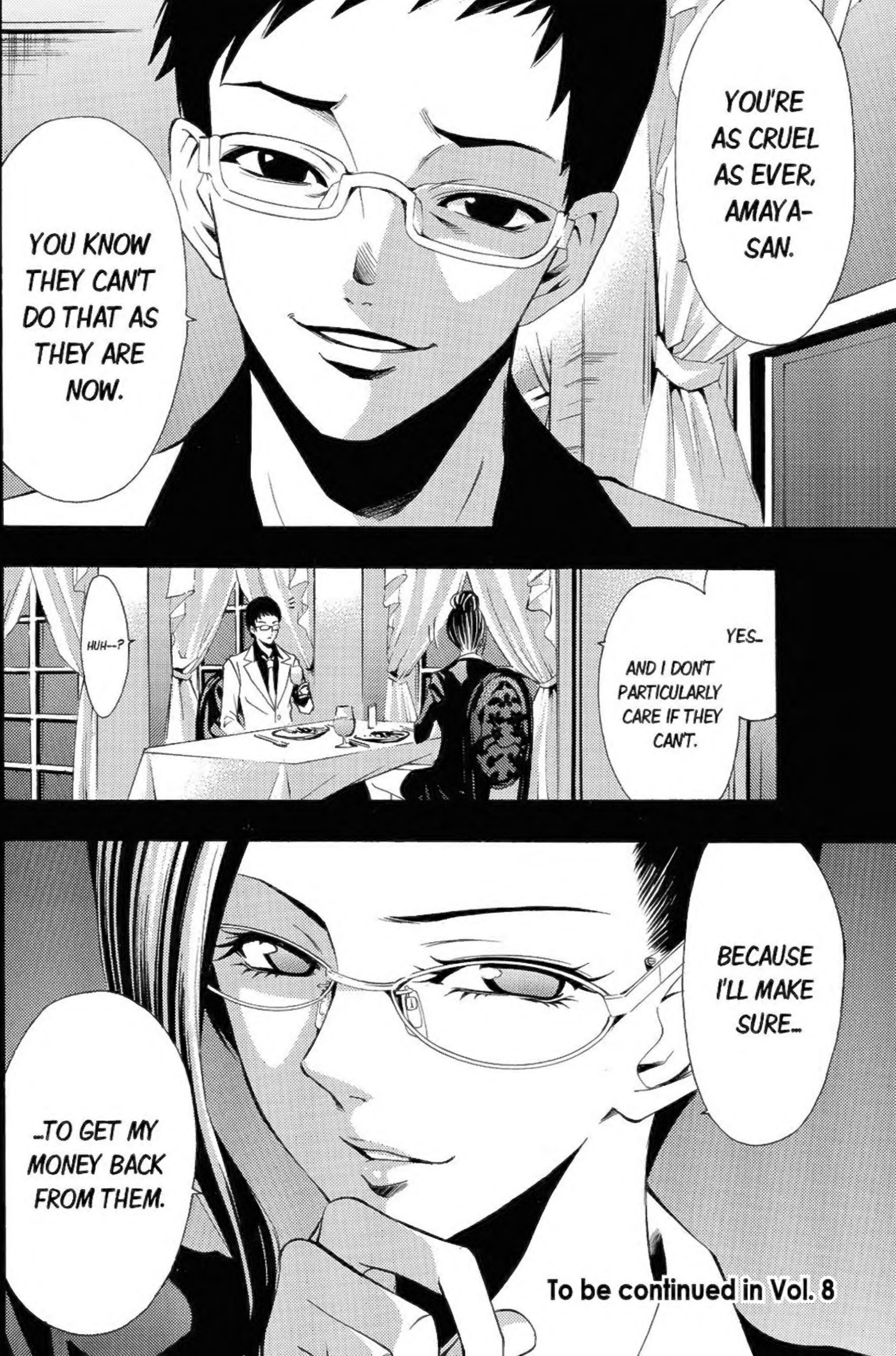

BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT THROUGH THE FILTER OF MUSIC...
...
...
I COULD SHARE MY FEELINGS AND THE THINGS I ENJOYED WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
SO WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SONGS THAT SELL, OR SONGS PEOPLE WANT TO HEAR.
WE CAN'T MAKE THOSE.
...
WE JUST... PLAN TO KEEP DOING WHATEVER WE THINK IS FUN AT THAT MOMENT.
...HEH.
SNOB.
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY? BIG TALK FOR SUCH A SCRAWNY THING!
LET US HEAR WHAT YOUR MUSIC SOUNDS LIKE, THEN!!
OH... SORRY... THEN, UM... PLEASE LISTEN.
THIS IS A NEW SONG I WROTE WITH THOSE THOUGHTS IN MIND...


SELFISH.
クスッ…
SNICKER
SEE? THAT'S A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU.
BATTA
SPAAANG
I GET IT...


BWAAAANG
IF THAT'S WHAT IT IS, THAT'S ENOUGH--!
…!!
I'LL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU…
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
THAT'S WHAT I…


...WANT TO DO!!
WOOOOO


AS TIMID AS HE IS, HE WRITES SOME PRETTY EMOTIONAL SONGS...
THEY'RE SO INTENSE AND LYRICAL...
...
AND REALLY...
THEY RESONATE WITH MY HEART SO MUCH, IT MAKES ME MAD.
CLINK コトッ...
FILL Q-EAST TO CAPACITY IN SIX MONTHS--?
YES.
THAT WAS THE CONTRACT I HAD THEM SIGN.


YOU'RE AS CRUEL AS EVER, AMAYA-SAN.
YOU KNOW THEY CAN'T DO THAT AS THEY ARE NOW.
YES... AND I DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE IF THEY CAN'T.
HUH--?
BECAUSE I'LL MAKE SURE...
...TO GET MY MONEY BACK FROM THEM.

To be continued in Vol. 8